THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY
MARVEL AGE®
© 1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP ™
39 JUNE
ONLY 35¢
WHO DID YOU THINK WAS THE FIFTH MEMBER OF X-FACTOR?™

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

MARVEL
#6 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
VISION
AND THE
Scarlet Witch
THURS.
OCT.
31
1985
THE JELLO BOYS AND JIM SALICRUP PRESENT
All Hallow's Eve!
A MASQUERADE DANSE CELEBRATING THE PUBLICATION OF MARVEL COMICS' VISION™ AND THE SCARLET WITCH™.
ALSO CELEBRATING BOOT-LAH RECORDING ARTIST
KID EGO's
PICTURE GARDEN
FEATURING:
FRIGHTENING ARTWORK AND SPINE-TINGLING EFFECTS BY BENJAMIN SMITH, ROBIN CLEMENTS, AND BRIAN PRIDE.
TAROT READINGS BY WITCHES FROM MAGICKAL CHILDE AND THE EARTHSTAR TEMPLE (COURTESY OF KID EGO)
PLUS:
ALL YOUR FAVORITE VAMPIRE FILMS PLAYED BACK-TO-BACK!
AT 11:00 THREE WITCHES WILL PERFORM THE DANSE OF THE BOOGIEMAN
AT MIDNIGHT THRILL TO A LIVE PERFORMANCE BY
KID EGO
THE CAT CLUB
HALLOWEEN 1985
THUR. OCT. 31
Doors Open at 10:00 P.M.

Get ready, folks, for another MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE exclusive! The story that Entertainment Tonight wished they got! The story that PEOPLE, US, and THE STAR still can't believe they missed! So look out, **Rona Barrett, Robin Leach,** and even **Ed LaSalle**—here comes the real inside story that enquiring minds really want to know about!

MARVEL HALLOWEEN MADNESS!!

Yep, we know you're probably reading this some time in March, but as I type these very words some folks are *still* recovering from Marvel's halloween madness. And since it's our duty here at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE to keep you as up-to-date as we can on all Marvel happenings, let's get on with it.

First, there was the Marvel Halloween office party. If you thought writing and drawing comics were the only creative outlets for our bewitched, bothered and bedazzled Bullpenners, then you've never seen these folks at a party. Besides all the usual party-type fun, which was had by all, Marvel staffers paraded about the hallowed halls of mighty Marvel in costumes that had to be seen to be believed!

Check out **Mark Gruenwald, Howard Mackie** and **David Wohl** in their full-color **Danny Fingeroth** masks! Take a gander at **Peter**

Continued on inside back cover...

SAMPLE COPY NOT FOR RESALE

Coming Attractions 1
More Coming Attractions 6
Newswatch 8
Mutant Report 11
Hembeck 16
Marvel Reference Library 18
Star Spotlight 21
New Talent Department 23
Marvel Age 1971 part II 27
Letters 30

MARVEL AGENDA

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

Jim Salicrup
Editor and Design Director

Adam Philips
Assistant Editor

Janet Jackson
Designer

Dwight Jon Zimmerman
Coming Attractions

Kurt Busiek and
Bill Slavicsek
Mutant Reporters

Fred Hembeck
Sage of Marvel Age

Craig Anderson **Larry Hama**
Adam Blaustein **Mike Higgins**
Eliot Brown **Sid Jacobson**
Nancy Brown **Hillary Joseph**
Bob Budiansky **Terry Kavanagh**
Mike Carlin **Ralph Macchio**
Bobbie Chase **Howard Mackie**
Daniel Chichester **Rosemary**
Margaret Clark **McCormick-Lowy**
Don Daley **Al Milgrom**
Tom DeFalco **Margie Neville**
Jo Duffy **Ann Nocenti**
Danny Fingeroth **Jim Owsley**
Archie Goodwin **Carl Potts**
Mark Gruenwald **Pat Redding**
Bob Harras **Louise Simonson**
Consulting Editors

John Romita
Art Director

Tom Morgan
Assistant Art Director

Kevin Maguire
Jose Marzan
Mark McKenna
Romita's Raiders

Anita Duncan
Art / Production Coordinator

Phil Felix
Assistant Production Coordinator

Brenda Mings
Typesetter

Jack Abel
Proofreader

George Roussos **Adam Philips**
Colorists

Larry Hama
Cover Concept

Bob Layton
Cover Art

Heathcliff cover illustration © 1986 McNaught Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Paul Becton **Ken Lopez**
Harry Candelario **Michael Maier**
Rob Carosella **Bill Oakley**
Dawn Geiger **Bill Valley**
Barbara Johnston
Production

Virginia Romita
Traffic Manager

Christine Aurilia **Shoshana Mallet**
Lynn Cohen
Friendly Assistance

Sally Pomeroy
Rights and Permissions Editor

Carol Kalish
Director of Specialty Sales
Peter David
Direct Sales Manager Adminstrative
Steve Saffel
Assistant Promotions Manager for Direct Sales

Irving Forbush
The Undeciding Factor

MARVEL AGE® Vol. 1, No. 39, June, 1986. (ISSN #8750-4367) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly.

Copyright © 1986 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved.
Price 35¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $4.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $6.00. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL AGE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL AGE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Second-Class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.**

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic and Star titles bearing a **July** cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback-sized edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to the date the comics leave the printer.

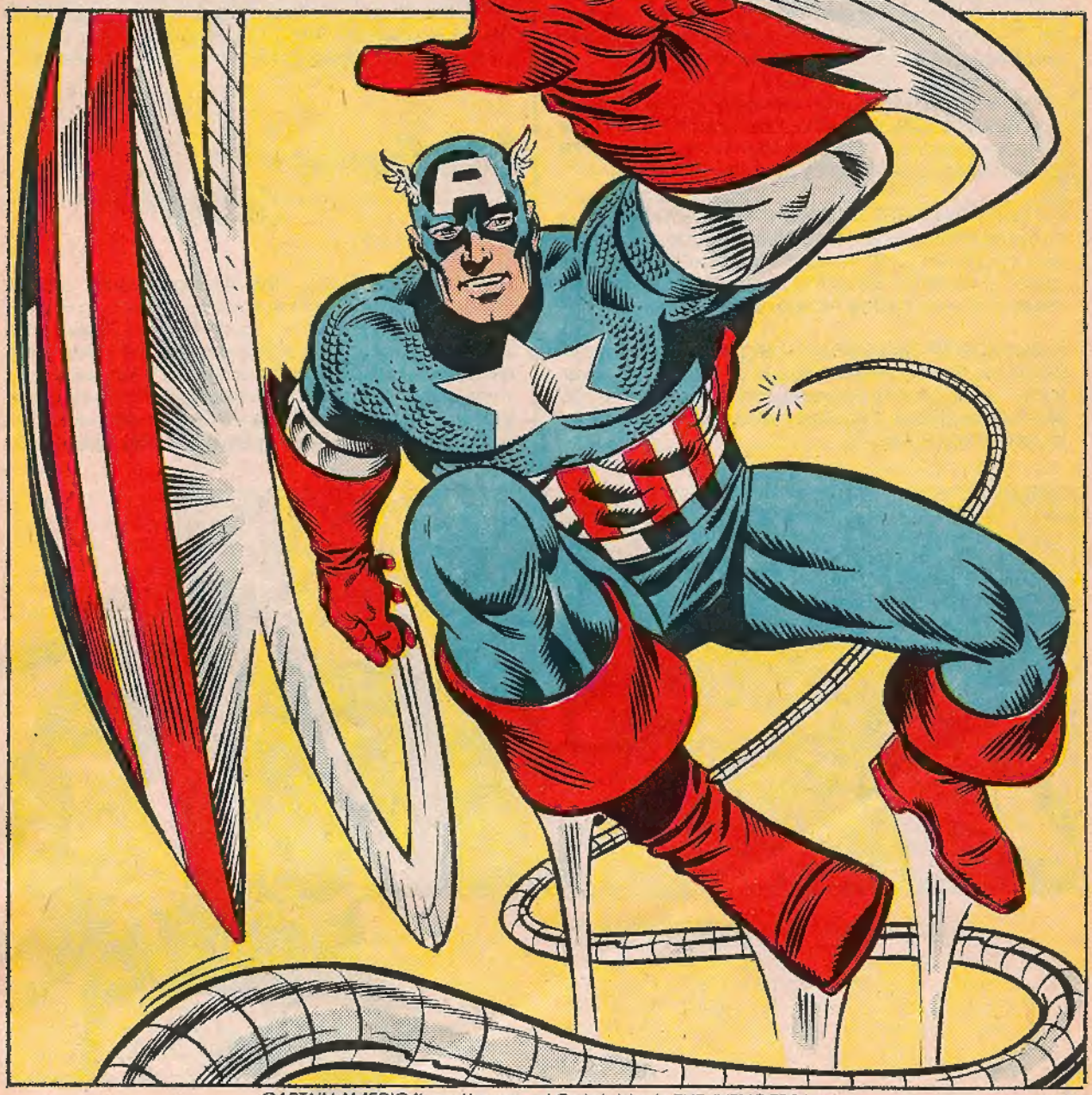
MARVEL®

COMING ATTRACTIONS

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN takes off in a new direction! **Scourge** wreaks his villain-slaying vengeance in both **CAPTAIN AMERICA** and **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**! The final episode of **THE ONE** will determine the fate of mankind! And **Kang** squares off against *Kang* in **THE AVENGERS**!

All this is just a hint at the excitement you'll find next month—and a clue as to why Marvel comics sell out so fast! Don't risk missing out on any of the adventures! Tell your favorite comics shop owner to reserve the titles you want today!

Copyright © 1985 Marvel Comics Group. All rights reserved.



CAPTAIN AMERICA's on the move! Catch him in THE AVENGERS, too!

Titles Shipping March 4
On Sale March 25

☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #7**—**Cloak** and **Dagger** embark on their mission to find the source of the drugs coming into New York by stowing away on the ship that brought in the latest load. While the dark/light duo makes a new friend and many new foes, **Cloak** continues to let his dark side take over his entire being! "Stowaways" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri** and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

☐ **DAREDEVIL #232**—The guerilla war between **Matt Murdock** and the **Kingpin** gets worse when the **Kingpin** calls in the assassin called **Nuke**! "God and Country" is written by **Frank Miller** and drawn by **Dave Mazzucchelli**. 75¢.

☐ **HE-MAN #2**—Who will win the allegiance of the mighty **Meteorbs**—**He-Man** or **Skeletor**! And what has the evil **Skeletor** planned if he should lose? "Falling Stars!" is written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Ron Wilson** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS #41**—**Mirage** returns home to Colorado and discovers the meaning of life and the purpose of death in "Way of the Warrior" written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **Jackson Guice**. 75¢

☐ **PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #8**—It's **Spider-Ham** against **Hog-Zilla** in Japan, in a tale so wild it's got two titles! "Kimono My House" or "Pigs Over Tokyo" is written by **Steve Miller**, penciled by **Tony Salmons** and inked by **Joe Albelo**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME #11**—**Nighthawk's** agents infiltrate the **Squadron Supreme**. Their mission—the overthrow of the Utopia Program! "Betrayal" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan** and inked by **Sam de la Rosa**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #16**—If you like mystery. If you like suspense, then you'll love the new WEB! **Peter Parker** goes to Appalachia on his first assignment for NOW magazine. What he finds is *not* what he expects! "Underworld!" is written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

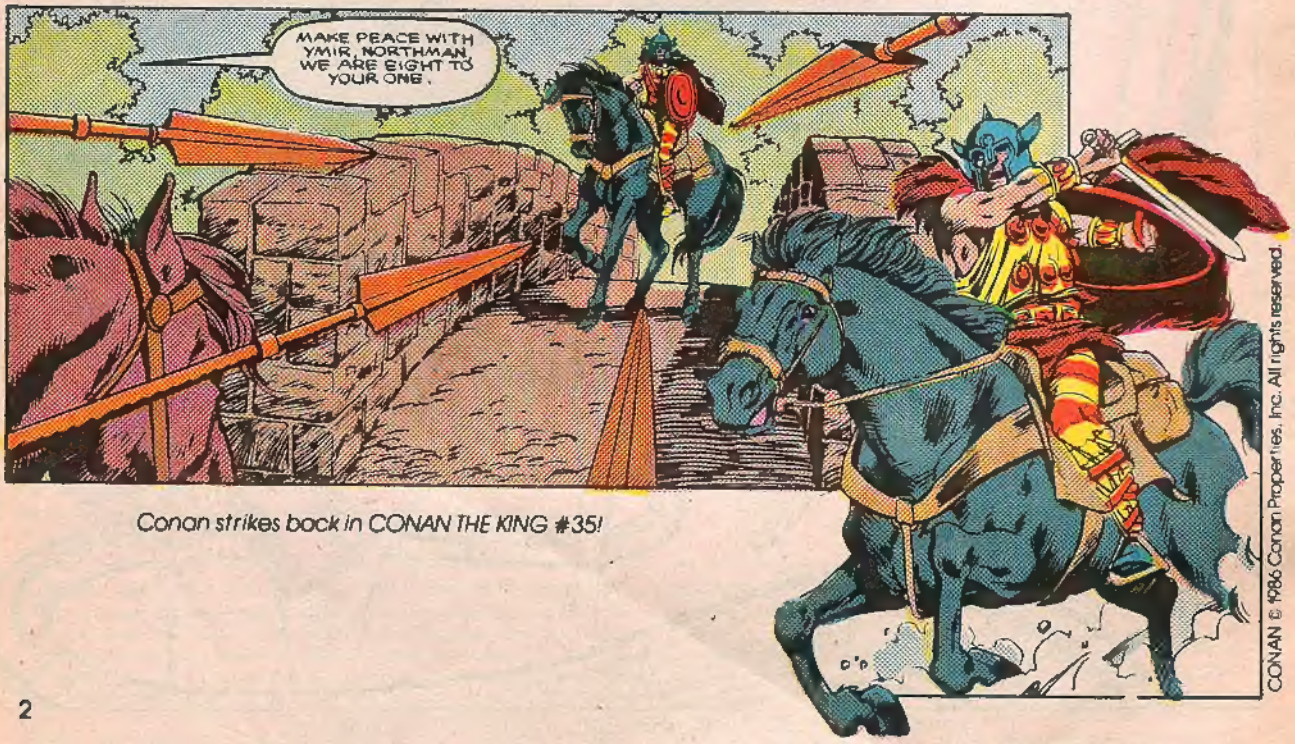
☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #10**—**The Thing** is missing? The search for their newest member puts **the West Coast Avengers** on a collison course with **Headlok**! "The Search for the Thing" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE KING #35**—The war against Aquilonia is at an impasse! Who will hold the keys of ultimate victory? Will it be **King Conan**? Or will it be the traitor **Crassus**, who knows the true whereabouts of **Conan's** son, **Prince Taurus**! "The Ravaged Land" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Judith Hunt** and inked by **Art Nichols**. 48 pages. $1.25.

☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #7**—**Raader** and her **Swashbucklers** find themselves at the mercy of a band of terrifying stowaways! Their only hope of rescue in the Cloudwall is . . . **Cap'n Kidd**? Written by **Bill Mantlo** and drawn by **Geof Isherwood**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

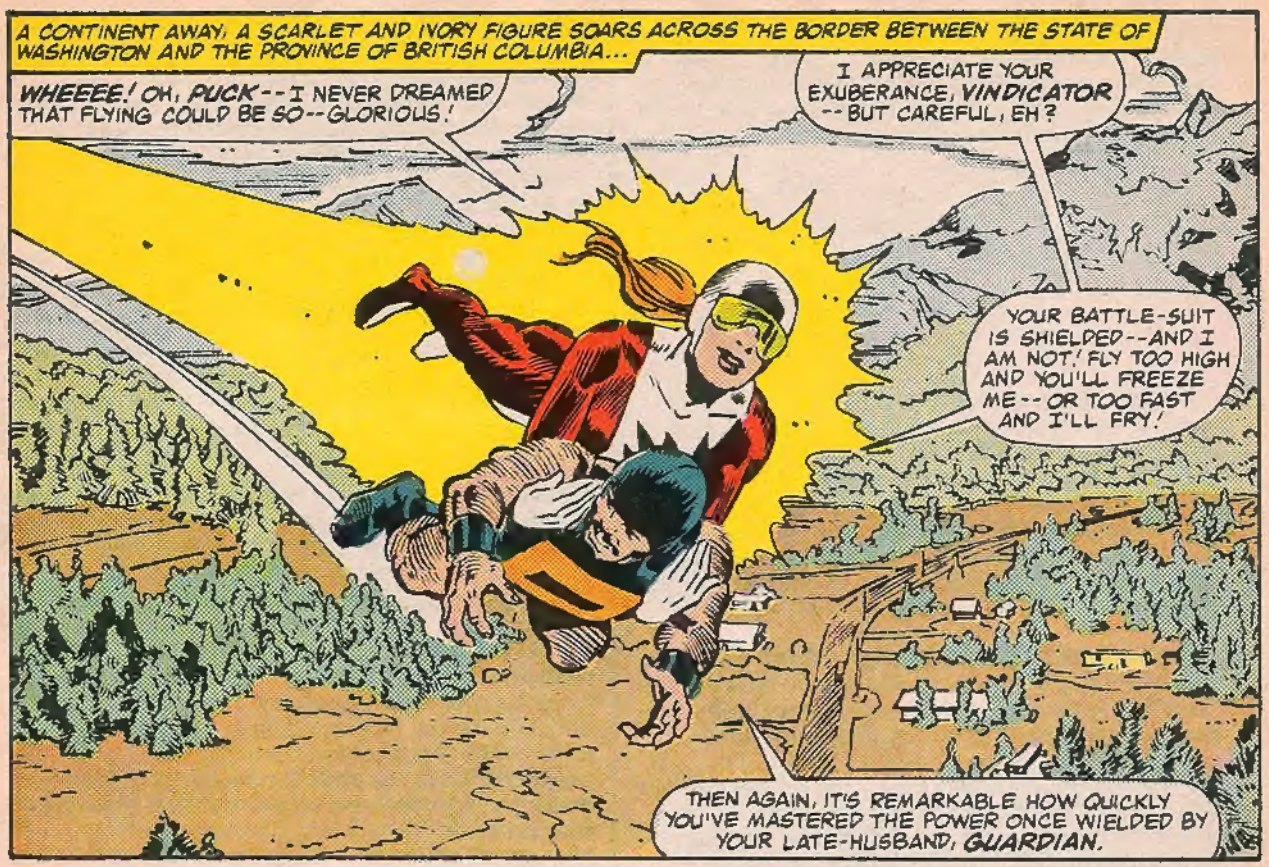
Titles Shipping March 11
On Sale April 1

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #36**—**The Avengers** guest star as **Prince Byrrah** of Atlantis swims to New York on a mysterious mission to contact his cousin **Namor**! **Snowbird** is about to give birth to a demi-god, and **Shaman** must enlist the help of **Dr. Strange** to find the "place of power" where the child can be born and molded into a human shape! "Labor Pains" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **David Ross** and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. 75¢.



Conan strikes back in CONAN THE KING #35!

CONAN © 1986 Conan Properties, Inc. All rights reserved.


A CONTINENT AWAY, A SCARLET AND IVORY FIGURE SOARS ACROSS THE BORDER BETWEEN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA...
WHEEEE! OH, PUCK--I NEVER DREAMED THAT FLYING COULD BE SO--GLORIOUS!
I APPRECIATE YOUR EXUBERANCE, VINDICATOR --BUT CAREFUL, EH?
YOUR BATTLE-SUIT IS SHIELDED--AND I AM NOT! FLY TOO HIGH AND YOU'LL FREEZE ME--OR TOO FAST AND I'LL FRY!
THEN AGAIN, IT'S REMARKABLE HOW QUICKLY YOU'VE MASTERED THE POWER ONCE WIELDED BY YOUR LATE-HUSBAND, GUARDIAN.

Can romance be in the air in ALPHA FLIGHT?

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #319—**Cap** teams up with **Diamondback** of the evil **Serpent Society** to stop **Scourge** and his vigilante rampage to slay every super-villain on Earth! "Overkill" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **EWOKS** #8—In a great clash of supernatural forces, **Logray**, with the aid of **Princess Kneesaa** and **Wicket**, battles the evil witch **Morag**! If **Logray** and his friends lose, **the Ewoks** will be no more! "The Eye of Kreegon" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #17—**Groo** continues to do what **Groo** does best, which is making problems for everyone! By **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. Mando Paper. 75¢

☐ **POWER PACK** #24—Lost and powerless on the Snark homeworld, the **Power Pack** must use all their wits to keep themselves alive and prevent a galaxy-shattering war from breaking out! "When You Wish Upon A Star" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **John Bogdanove** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #278—**The Hobgoblin** is in jail! **Scourge** is out to slay him! The police are out to protect him! And **Spider-Man** is caught in the cross-fire in what has to be the most action-packed Marvel adventure this month! "If this be Justice" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, guest-penciled by **Mike Harris** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **THE VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series)** #10—**The Vision** and **Witch** journey to the moon and the home of **the Inhumans** because **Crystal** is dying! And to make matters worse, when **Quicksilver** discovers why she's dying, he goes on a wild rampage! Can even **the Vision** and **the Inhumans** save **Quicksilver** from himself? "Spring Fever" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Richard Howell** and inked by **Frank Springer**. 75¢.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #8—The complete index to the world's greatest comic book continues, with complete story synopses, color cover reproductions and credits for more classic **FF** issues, with a brand new wraparound cover. Only $1.25.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION** #8—More information-packed hero and villain histories, powers and statistics all highlighted by illustrations by the best artists in the industry! All inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. Cover penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. Researched and written by **Mark Gruenwald** and **Peter Sanderson**. 64 pages. Mando paper. $1.25.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #125—**Conan** is caught in the middle of a bizarre and deadly plot of child abduction and sacrifice that pits mother against father and **Conan** against an ancient god in "Altar of the Goat God" written by **Jim Owsley** and **Gary Kwapisz** and drawn by **Garv Kwapisz**. A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series)** #6—**The One** battles his greatest foe, **the Other**, for control of the human race in the final issue of the limited series! Written and drawn by **Rick Veitch**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

Titles Shipping March 18.
On Sale April 8

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #40—Blast off with our out of this world feature on **COMET MAN**, a new super hero created by tv star **Billy** ("Lost in Space") **Mumy** and **Miguel Ferrer**! Newswatch takes a sneak peak at **Peter Parker's** refurbished pad! Our intrepid reporters preview **DAKOTA NORTH**, a detective series with a twist, a new line of romance paperback comics from the special projects department, and much, much more! Direct Sales only. 35¢. Cheap.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #269—It's **Kang** vs. **Kang**! With **Kang** the winner! It's a story you have to read to believe! "The Once and Future Kang!" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #184—The king set them up to be killed. Now **Conan** and his men are out for revenge! "Swords" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Ernie Chan**. 75¢.

☐ **THE ETERNALS (Limited Series)** #10—**The Deviants** reveal the full dimension of their terrible plan to rule Earth and perhaps . . . the Universe! Guest-starring: **Thor**! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Sal Buscema** and inked by **Al Gordon**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #49—He's **the Cobra Emperor**, a greater threat to **the Joes** and the nations of Earth than all the **Cobra** forces combined! His origin is revealed in "Cobra Emperor," written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Rod Whigham** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. Mando paper. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #321—**Al Milgrom**, who took up where **John Byrne** left off, spins a tale of ol' **Greenskin** that'll leave Hulkophiles craving more! Written and penciled by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #189—**Spider-Man** is caught in a deadly power-play between **Kraven the Hunter** and the deadly **Vulture** in "From the Depths of Defeat!" the classic tale reprinted from **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #49 written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **John Romita Sr.** 75¢.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #8—**Gonzo** helps **Camilla** realize the dream of her life. But that dream turns into a nightmare for **Kermit**, **Miss Piggy** and **Fozzie**! "Camilla's Wish" is written by **Stan Kay** and drawn by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST** #124—**Danny** seeks the secret of the Dragon's Tale. The only one who can tell him is the fabled **Old Master**—a man marked for murder by a band of merciless ninjas sent by the evil **Yellow Claw**! It's a spine-chilling tale with more plot twists than any other adventure this month! "Crossfire" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Jerry Acerno**. 75¢

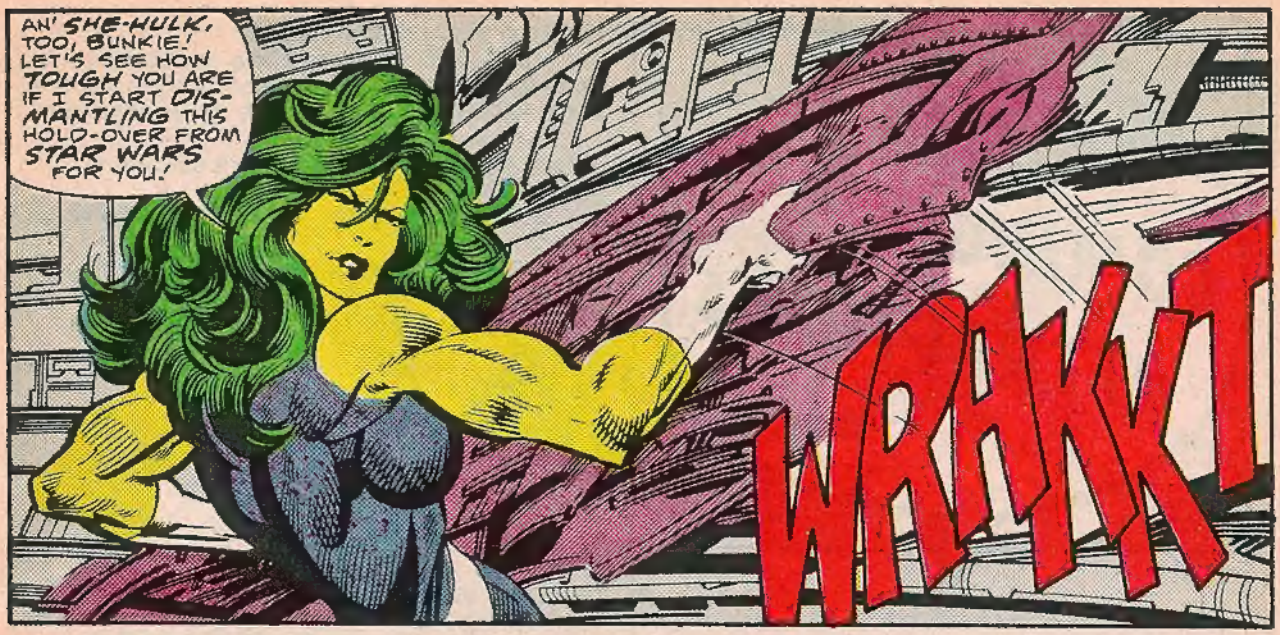
☐ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series)** #6—In the stunning conclusion to the series, **Kane** finds himself responsible for the protection of an African village, the inhabitants of which believe him to be a god! Just what does the fanatical puritan have to protect his "flock" from? Find out the terrible answer in "Wings in the Night," adapted from **Robert E. Howard's** original story by scripter **Ralph Macchio**, penciler **John Bogdanove** and inker **Al Williamson**. Plus: a short adaptation of **Howard's** poem "The Homecoming of Solomon Kane" penciled by **Sandy Plunkett** and inked by **Al Williamson**. Cover painting by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **X-MEN** #207—To redeem herself after her battle with **the Beyonder**, **Rachel** stalks **Selene** in the heart of the Hellfire Club! "Ghosts" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.** and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL SAGA** #8—The origin of **X-Factor's Angel** continues, with **Professor X**, **Cyclops** and **Iceman** present! Also: continuing **Spider-Man's** first fateful confrontation with **J. Jonah Jameson** from **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #1; **the Sub-Mariner** plays producer to the bankrupt **Fantastic Four** in a deadly film production from **FANTASTIC FOUR** #9; the return of **Loki** from **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** #88; **the Hulk** travels beneath the Earth for his first battle with **Tyrannus**; **Iron Man** modifies his armor for the first time by painting it gold all over! Plus some of **Ant-Man's** earliest adventures, and an all-new page of **Thor** art by **Walt Simonson**! Compiled from stories by **Stan Lee** and others, by **Peter Sanderson**. Mando paper. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #27—Marvel's foremost Man Without Fear, **Daredevil**, stars in a look at America's motoring culture, as **Foggy Nelson** attempts to buy a car. "Cars" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and drawn by **Tony Salmons**. Plus, an offbeat back-up story featuring a bored **Spider-Man** looking for some fun, written and drawn by **Mark Hempel**. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

The return of the Blob—in the Uncanny X-MEN!



Things are tough all over in the FANTASTIC FOUR!

Titles Shipping March 25, On Sale April 15.

☐ **CARE BEARS** #5—In the tale behind the brand new **Care Bears** movie, **the Care Bears** tell the story about the very first **Care Bear** and how the whole group was born! It's a heart-warming tale with a very special twist. "The Very First Care Bear" is written by **Stan Kay**, penciled by **Howard Post** and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #12—**Cutter** and **Skywise** face the strange dangers inside the mysterious forest they've discovered. Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and drawn by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic Comic. Mando paper. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #292—What would you do if you could travel back in time? Would you try to change the course of history? **Nick Fury** would! Unless **the FF** can stop him, he's going to kill **Hitler**! "The Man Who Dreamed the World" is written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Al Gordon**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #208—**Iron Man** becomes involved with **A.I.M.**'s attempted takeover of a South American nation! The big question is, whose side is **Sheilhead** on? "Firefang" is written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #116—His name is **Sabertooth** and he's out to sink his fangs into **the Black Cat**. The only thing standing between **the Black Cat** and death is **Spidey**—if he can reach her in time! "You Always Hurt the Ones You Love" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Rich Buckler** and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

☐ **SECTAURS** #7—Though **Dargon** and his friends find one of the lost Hyves of the legendary Ancients, getting inside it is another matter! And if they do get in, will the secrets inside help them against **General Spidrax's** hordes? "The Hyve" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Steve Geiger** and inked by **Keith Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **STAR WARS** #106—The planet **Zeltros** has been conquered by two invading armies! **The Zeltrons**' only hope now is **Luke Skywalker**, the telepathic **Space Bunnies** and a dozen cowardly cockroaches! "My Hiromi" is written by **Jo Duffy** and drawn by **Cynthia Martin**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #369—It's **Thor** vs. **Balder**—to the *death!* Written by **Walt Simonson** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS** #18—Who will rule **Cybertron**, home of **the Transformers**? The noble **Autobots** vow they will—but the evil **Decepticons** have the might, and overwhelming numbers, to stop them! "The Bridge to Nowhere!" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Keith Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #6—Who is the mastermind behind the **Evil Mutants**? Find out the shocking answer as he tries to x-out **X-Factor**! "The Magic Machine" is written by **Bob Layton**, penciled by **Jackson Guice** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO MARVEL TEAM-UP** #4—More complete story synopses, color cover reproductions and credits in one concise, easy to read package, including a brand new wraparound cover. Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. $1.25.

☐ **DOCTOR WHO** #22—The TV Time Lord stars in the conclusion of "The Stockbridge Horror" saga, written by **Steve Parkhouse**, penciled by **Mick Austin** and inked by **Paul Neary**. Plus: the second half of "Skywatch" written by **Maxwell Stockbridge** and drawn by **Mick Austin** and "The Fires Down Below" written by **John Peel** and drawn by **John Stokes**. Also: "Who Knows" with all the latest happenings in Whovania! Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE TALES** #5—Marvel's magazine for those who want their stories gutsy and gritty offers another hard-hitting grab-bag of tales by **John Severin**, **Will Jungkuntz**, **Herb Trimpe** and **Vincent Waller**! Cover painting by **Bob Camp**. A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping April.

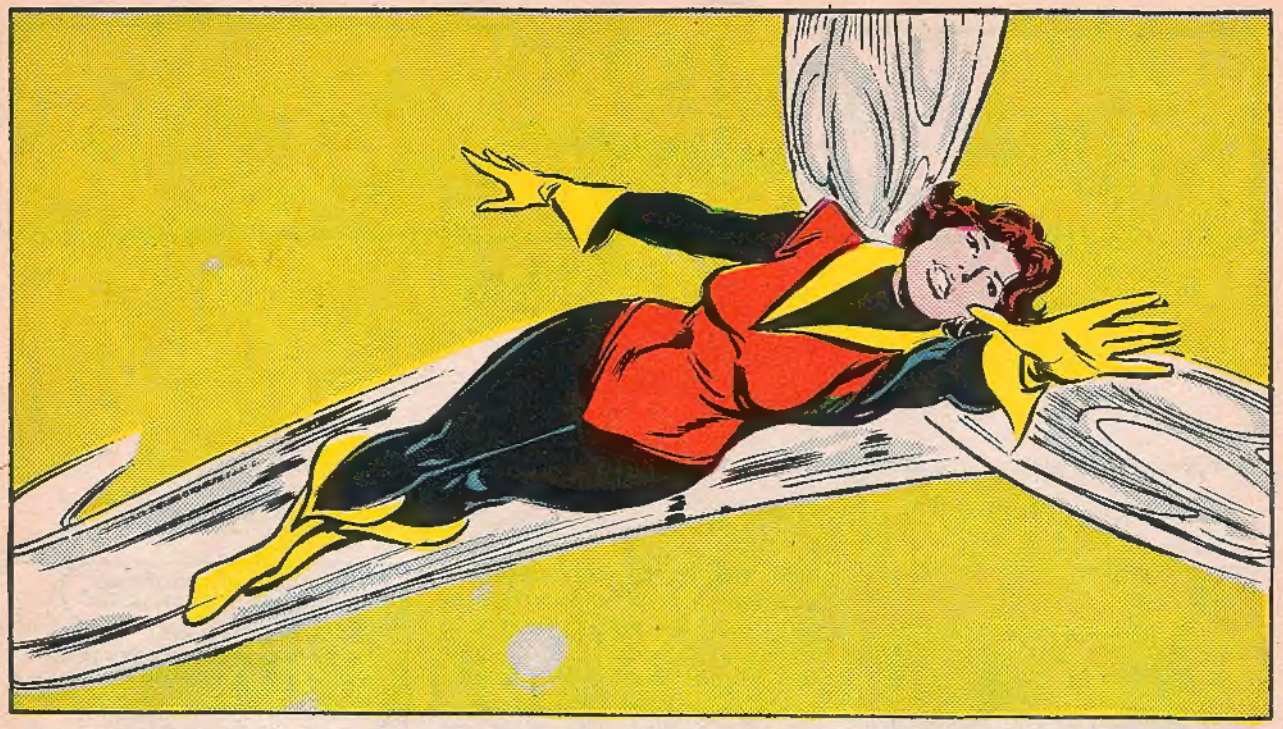
DAREDEVIL #233—by Miller and Mazzucchelli.
MEET MISTY #5—by Robbins.
THE NEW MUTANTS #42—by Claremont and Guice.
THUNDERCATS #5—by Michelinie and Mooney.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #17—by Michelinie, Silvestri and Baker.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #11—by Englehart, Milgrom and Sinnott.
SQUADRON SUPREME #12—by Gruenwald, Ryan and de la Rosa.
MOONSHADOW #8—by DeMattels and Muth.
ALPHA FLIGHT #37—by Mantlo, Ross and Mignola.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #320—by Gruenwald, Neary and Janke.
DOCTOR STRANGE #78—by Gillis, Warner and Ember lin.
GROO THE WANDERER #18—by Aragones with Evanier.
HEATHCLIFF #9
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #279—by DeFalco, Frenz and Rubinstein.
THE VISION AND SCARLET WITCH #11—by Englehart, Howell and Springer.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR #9—compiled by Olshevsky.
POWER PACK #25—by L. Simonson, Bogdanove and Wiacek.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #9—by Gruenwald and Sanderson.
BOZZ CHRONICLES #4—by Michelinie and Blevins.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #126—by Kwapisz and Yakata.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #41
THE AVENGERS #270—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #185—by Owsley, J. Buscema and Chan.
THE ETERNALS #11—by Gillis and S. Buscema.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #322
MARVEL TALES #190—by Lee and Romita Sr.
X-MEN #208—by Claremont, Romita Jr. and Green.
MARVEL SAGA #9—by Sanderson.
G.I. JOE #50—by Hama, Whigham and Mushynsky.
DREADSTAR #25—by Starlin.
DROIDS #3
ELFQUEST #13—by W. and R. Pini
FANTASTIC FOUR #293—by Byrne and Gordon.
IRON MAN #209—by O'Neil, Bright, Akin and Garvey.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #117—by David, Buckler and McLeod.
THOR #370—by W. Simonson and S. Buscema.
TOP DOG #9
THE TRANSFORMERS #19—by Budiansky, Perlin and Williams.
X-FACTOR #7—by Layton, Guice and Rubinstein
ALIEN LEGION #14
DOCTOR WHO #23

Titles Shipping May.

CLOAK AND DAGGER #8—by Mantlo, Leonardi and Austin.
DAREDEVIL #234—by Miller and Mazzucchelli.
FRAGGLE ROCK #8
HE-MAN #3—by Carlin, Wilson and Janke.
THE NEW MUTANTS #43—by Claremont and Guice.
PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #9—by Skeates and Albelo.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #18—by Michelinie, Silvestri and Baker.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #12—by Englehart, Milgrom and Sinnott.
CONAN THE KING #36—by Kraar, Hunt and Nichols.
SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #8—by Mantlo and Isherwood.

Move out with some real American heroes in G.I. JOE!

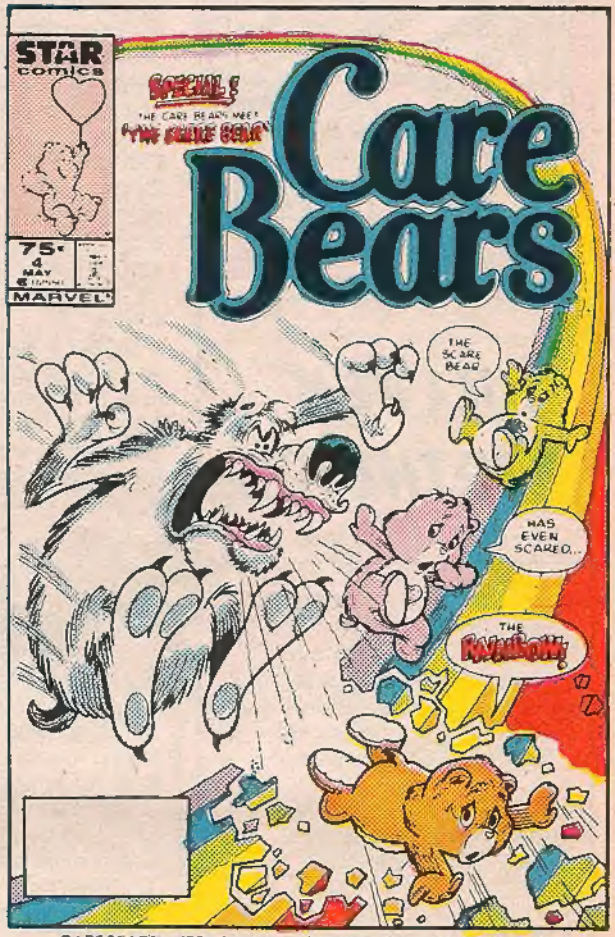
G.I. JOE © 1986 Hasbro Bradley, Inc. All rights reserved.



The winsome Wasp wings ahead in the AVENGERS!

ALPHA FLIGHT #38—by Mantlo, Ross and Mignola.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #321—by Gruenwald, Neary and Janke.
EWOKS #9
GROO THE WANDERER #19—by Aragones with Evanier.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #280—by DeFalco, Frenz and Rubinstein.
THE VISION AND SCARLET WITCH #12—by Englehart, Howell and Springer.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR #10—compiled by Olshevsky.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #10—by Gruenwald and Sanderson.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #127
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #42
THE AVENGERS #271—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #186—by Owsley, J. Buscema and Chan.
G.I. JOE #51—by Hama, Whigham and Mushynsky.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #323
MARVEL TALES #191—by Lee and Romita Sr.
MUPPET BABIES #9
X-MEN #209—by Claremont, Romita Jr. and Green.
MARVEL SAGA #10—by Sanderson.
THE ETERNALS #12—by Gillis and S. Buscema.
POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #125—by Owsley, Bright and Acerno.
MARVEL FANFARE #28
CARE BEARS #6
ELFQUEST #14—by W. and R. Pini.
FANTASTIC FOUR #294—by Byrne and Gordon.
IRON MAN #210—by O'Neil, Bright, Akin and Garvey.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #118—by David, Buckler and McLeod.
SECTAURS #8—by Mantlo, Geiger and Williams.
STAR WARS #107—by Duffy and Martin.
THOR #371—by W. Simonson and S. Buscema.
THE TRANSFORMERS #20—by Budiansky, Perlin and Williams.
X-FACTOR #8—by Layton, Guice and Rubinstein.
DOCTOR WHO #24
SAVAGE TALES #6

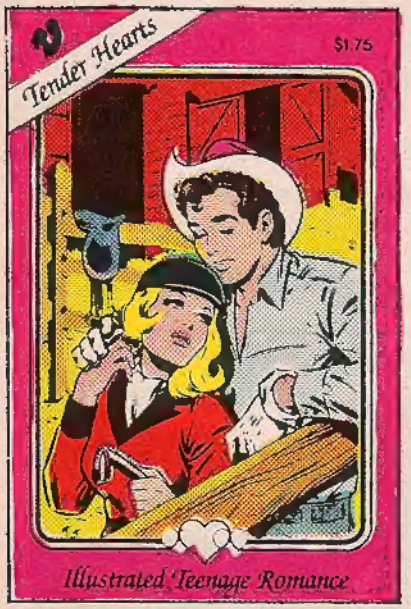
Look out, Care Bears! Here comes the Scare Bear!



CARE BEARS © 1986 American Greetings Corp. All rights reserved.

NEWSWATCH

Romance returns with a whole new look! G.I. Joe gets a new member who will slaughter the enemy!



ITEM: With spring only a few short weeks away, what better time to announce a new series of romance comics *in paperback!* That's right! **Bob (Cupid) Budiansky's** Special Projects Department has been busy for weeks working with artists and writers to produce only the best stories for the series. Even if super heroes are more your style, pick one of these paperbacks up for your sister, girlfriend or mother—they'll love you for it! For more info on this new line of comics, check out our big preview in next month's MARVEL AGE!

ITEM: You've seen him on t.v., taking on foes that would make lesser men run away screaming! And when **Sgt. Slaughter** shows up in G.I. JOE #48, **Cobra** will be in bigger trouble than ever before! Wrestling's greatest top-kick will be joining **the Joes'** counter terrorist forces and making life tough for international evil-doers everywhere!

That's all we dare tell you now. It seems every department and office here is in the middle of something new, but, heck, if we spilled the beans now, we wouldn't have anything to tell you *next* month!

SGT SLAUGHTER REPORTING FOR DUTY AT THE PIT! HERE'S MY ORDERS.
NOW IF ONE OF YOU BOYS CAN POINT ME IN THE DIRECTION OF MY RACK AND SEND AROUND THE ASSISTANT CQ TO WAKE ME UP AT CHOW-TIME--

SGT. SLAUGHTER © 1986 Titan Sports, Inc.

BULLPEN BIRTHDAYS

February 7 Bob Camp
February 9 Jo Duffy
February 12 Jose Albeto
February 14 Carol Kalish
February 16 Ron Wilson
February 23 Janet Jackson
February 28 Nelson Yomtov

March 1 Tom Orzechowski
March 2 Mark Evanier
March 6 Al Milgrom
March 7 Alan Weiss
March 15 Bob Budiansky
March 20 Diana Albers
March 28 Adam Philips
March 31 Robbin Brosterman

THE TOP TEN

Yep, it's that time again—time to take a look at the top ten direct sales titles. This month it's a list of titles for December, 1985, and as always, is provided by our pal and director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish.**

1—**X-FACTOR #3**
2—**X-MEN #204**
3—**ALPHA FLIGHT #33**
4—**MARVEL UNIVERSE #5**
5—**FANTASTIC FOUR #289**
6—**AVENGERS #266**
7—**FIRESTAR #2**
8—**WEST COAST AVENGERS #7**
9—**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #245**
10—**NEW MUTANTS #38**

Whew! That's a whole lotta comics! Everybody must have been spending those cold, snowy days indoors, reading Marvel Comics!

—*A.P.*

Some Strange Art Changes

In the twenty years since **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko** first created **Doctor Strange**, many talented writers and artists have tried their hands at chronicling the Master of the Mystic Arts' continuing battle against the likes of **Nightmare** and **the Dread Dormammu**. But perhaps none has been as successful as the recent DOCTOR STRANGE team of writer **Roger Stern** and artist **Paul Smith**! Roger and Paul have received rave reviews for their work on DOCTOR STRANGE from pros, fans, and critics alike. Their stories have ranged from the off-beat tale of a lama whose latest reincarnation has a soft spot for pizza and MTV to the epic saga of the revolt against **Umar**, evil mistress of the Dark Dimension.

For this reason, Paul's decision to leave DOCTOR STRANGE due to outside commitments left editor **Carl Potts** with a difficult decision. Who would take up the artistic reins on DOCTOR STRANGE? **Mark Badger** of GARGOYLE fame helped out with a couple of issues while Carl considered a number of artists. And finally, Carl settled on ALIEN LEGION and MOON KNIGHT artist **Chris Warner**!

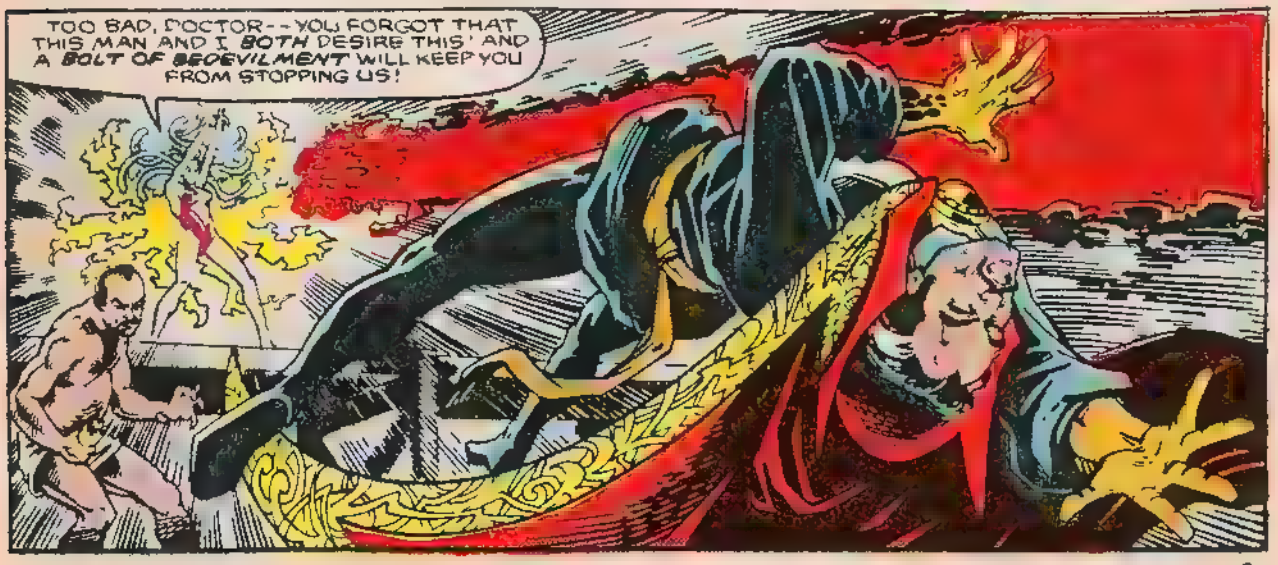
Although this will only be Chris's third assignment for Marvel, Carl is confident that he will come through with flying colors! "I had given Chris his first professional job on the ALIEN LEGION Epic Comic," Carl recalls. "The work on his first issue was really good. But by the time he took over the lead feature, he was even better!"

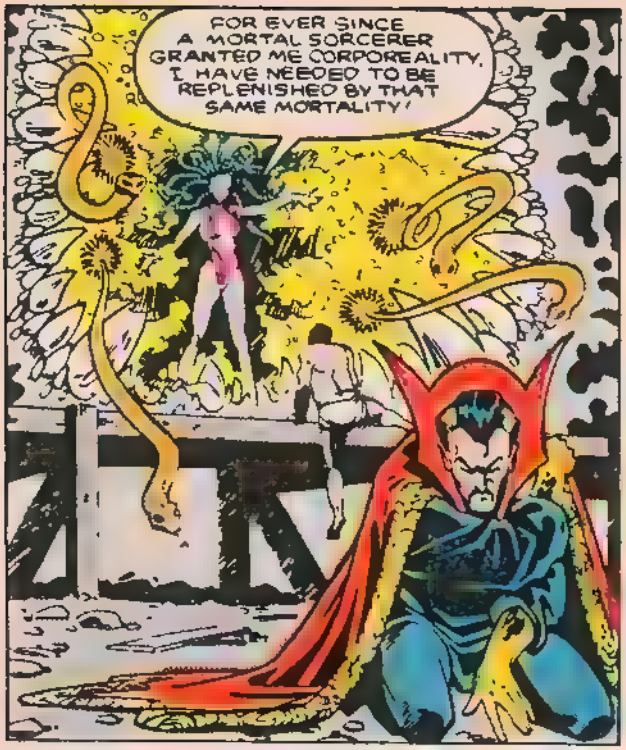
A mostly self-taught artist, Chris first came to Carl's attention when, at artist **Luke McDonnell**'s suggestion, he brought samples of his work to a comics convention. Impressed with Chris's talent, Carl had him draw a **Vision** and **the Scarlet Witch** tryout story. It wasn't long before he was drawing ALIEN LEGION and doing breakdowns on the newly revived MOON KNIGHT series!

And now, beginning with #77, Chris will be joining writer **Peter B. Gillis** and inker **Randy Emberlin** as the regular penciler on DOCTOR STRANGE! Why did Carl choose Chris? He answers simply: "The guy's good!"

Peter agrees! "Chris is tremendous! He's a real storyteller," he says. "He's been taking a lot of effort on DOCTOR STRANGE, and it's gorgeous! He keeps surprising me with little things, he's done a lot of research towards making the real environments real and the fantasy stuff fantastic."

Paul Smith left DOCTOR STRANGE after issue #73, which featured the conclusion of the Umar storyline, and Roger Stern took his leave two issues later. #76 will feature Chris's art for the first time, in a story drawn over Mark Badger's layouts. And DOCTOR STRANGE #77 will showcase the premiere of the new crea-





tive team in full swing! The story will tie up a number of loose ends, following up on the return of **Topaz**, whom longtime readers will remember from WEREWOLF BY NIGHT. The issues to come will feature the return of some familiar characters like **Artie Green**, the MTV-loving reincarnation of a Tibetan lama, and a special guest appearance by **Cloak**! Peter will also take the opportunity to follow up on the final storyline of his last series, THE NEW DEFENDERS! "I'll be treating some of the things that were left at the end of the DEFENDERS, like what happened to **the Valkyrie** and the others who were seemingly dead," he revealed.

DOCTOR STRANGE is a special series to Peter. "I really broke into the business years ago because I wanted to write DOCTOR STRANGE!" he says. "All Carl really had to do was hint that I could write the series and I'd have jumped at the chance!"

Chris feels much the same way, especially since his work is being inked by Randy Emberlin! "Randy was a childhood chum who got me into comics in 1964 or '65, and Doctor Strange was one of our favorite characters!" Chris recalls. "It's kind of a weird honor to work on this childhood favorite book. It's like being a fan and a pro rolled into one!"

While Chris is a longtime DOCTOR STRANGE fan, though, he is determined to make the series his own! "Since the book has been done by so many high-profile artists, there's something of a legacy which starts with Stan Lee and Steve Ditko," he notes. "It's very easy to get caught up in that legacy, but I want to find not only a novel way to do the series but also a way to take what I can from past versions of the book without relying on it!"

Chris is sure to become a valuable part of that legacy! Because no matter who you ask, it seems, you'll hear the same thing: Chris Warner is one of the most talented young artists to come along in a long time! So get in on the ground floor of this new artistic sensation and pick up a copy of DOCTOR STRANGE #77! You'll be glad you did!

—Shelly Fisch

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 1 "The Next Step in News Evolution" NUMBER 10

Mutant News

While it's still a little early to be talking about specific plans for this spring and summer's mutant related series (it's mid-November as this is being written), the Mutant Report was able to uncover a few interesting tidbits to whet your appetites. But a word of caution, plans are still being formulated and what we'll reveal here are only the slightest hints of the possibilities to come. Remember, when it comes to mutants, anything can happen. And if what's gone before is any indication, it probably will!

Longshot Offshoots

Fresh from their debut in the LONGSHOT Limited Series, the villains **Spiral** and **Mojo** will be making things unpleasant for the UNCANNY X-MEN **Rachel**, especially, will be affected by Spiral in such a way that we'll be seeing a radical change in her character.

There are also some really wacky plans in the works for this summer's X MEN and NEW MUTANTS annuals. They're going to be a lot of fun as both will be featuring very wild stories that you'd never see in the regular series. Spiral and Mojo will be the villains and **Art Adams** will again be handling the art chores on the X-MEN ANNUAL. As for the NEW MUTANTS, the exciting news is that the art will be by---whoops! We almost let it slip, but we did promise to keep that one a surprise. We do have to throw in a few of those from time to time!

Make Room for Daddy

Other villains we should be seeing this spring and summer in the X-MEN include the ever-dreaded **Hellfire Club** and the long-awaited arrival of **Warlock's** dad, **Magus**. Magus has left a trail of destruction in his wake as he has followed his son from planet to planet. What will be the result when he faces the X-Men? Will they be up to the challenges? And to make matters worse, one of the X-Men will be leaving the group!

Factor Fragments

The plans for X-FACTOR are more tentative but the following are some things to watch for. The major problem facing **Jean Grey** is that she has been in a form of suspended animation for the last five years. People have known her and remember her, but it wasn't really her. And she desperately wants life to be the way it was. This is all going to affect her and the group in general.

We'll also delve more in-depth into **Scott (Cyclops) Summers'** relationship with both Jean and his wife **Madelyne**, although he won't actually meet Madelyne in X-FACTOR for awhile because of her involvement in things over in the X-MEN. **The Beast** will be spending some time adjusting to his new form and there could be some new developments in **Iceman's** personal life. He may be meeting someone who could become his romantic interest. And further down the line **the Angel** may be developing a major problem with his wings.

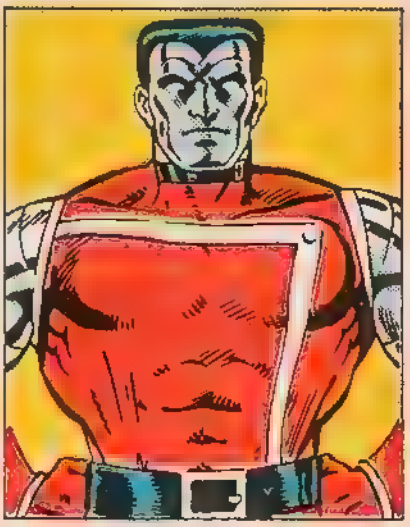
A coming of age story is in the works for Iceman that will explore his relationship with **Darkstar**. His Russian teammate from his days with the now defunct **Champions** will involve him in an adventure that will introduce a villain who just may become **X-Factor's** major adversary. His name is **Doppelganger** and he is incredibly evil! We will also be introduced to the new **Owl**. This high flying bad guy will be more evil than the original Owl, and will also have a new look.

Other than these brief hints, we do know that X-Factor will be concerned with whether or not they are doing their job. Are they helping the mutant cause to the best of their abilities? They are trying to follow **Professor Xavier's** dream, but can they suceed without his guidance? All of these sub-plots could make interesting stories by themselves, but put them all together and they spell plenty of excitment for this spring and summer.

Colossus Back in U.S.S.R.

The big news this month is the upcoming COLOSSUS Limited Series. Feeling somewhat guilty for not protecting his Soviet homeland, the armored X-Man (accompanied by his younger sister and New Mutant **Illyana**) will travel back to his native land for the first time since he joined the X Men. This odyssey will give **Peter** the opportunity to question his role in the world, and to wonder whether he is actually accomplishing anything as a super hero. This six issue series is being written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **Rick** (CLOAK AND DAGGER) **Leonardi**. Watch for it this summer!

—Bill Slavicsek



The Fifth Factor

There was only a hint of it in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #30, in the first installment of "The Mutant Report," when we mentioned that X-FACTOR would have "a surprise fifth member that has to be seen to be believed!" The secrecy continued in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #33, when our expose on the new X-FACTOR book had various blocks of text blacked out—and even the accompanying illustrations were altered to hide the identity of the surprise fifth member. And by now, in AVENGERS #263, THE FANTASTIC FOUR #286, and X-FACTOR, you've seen the secret revealed ... that *Jean Grey* and *Phoenix* were two separate entities, and while Phoenix destroyed herself to save the universe, Jean remained alive and well, but in suspended animation. Now she's back—and her return means not only a new life for her, but a new purpose and direction for Marvel's original mutants ... *Cyclops, The Beast, the Angel, Iceman* and *Marvel Girl*.

We were pretty well expecting this to be big news. We were expecting people to be shaken up. After all, it's the kickoff of a brand-new series ... you wouldn't expect us to be *dull*, right? But what we weren't expecting was that so many Marvelites would turn detective, and devote their minds to solving the mystery of who would be the fifth member of X- Factor ... before the story came out!

Frankly, we've been deluged with letters analyzing the clues we've let slip over the past few months. And those clues have been interpreted in quite a surprising variety of ways. People have been predicting that the fifth member would be anyone from *Rachel Summers* to ... well, why don't we just print a sampling of the letters and let 'em speak for themselves?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Think you're pretty tricky, don't you? First you mention that X-FACTOR will have "a surprise fifth member," then when you think we won't make the connection, you oh so-casually let slip that **Madelyne Summers** will be getting super powers in the X-MEN AND ALPHA FLIGHT Limited Series. Well, ha! Caught you!

My question is this: If Madelyne gets her powers from becoming one of the Berserkers, she's not a mutant, is she?

Heather Quaid
Venice, FL

Well, no, she's not. And while you can certainly expect Madelyne to play an important part in X-FACTOR, she's not a member of the team.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I've done it! I've figured out who the fifth member of X-Factor is! Her name: Rachel Summers, alias Phoenix II! How did I figure it out? Well, in the future Earth Rachel comes from her parents are Scott Summers (Cyclops) and Jean Grey (Phoenix/Dark Phoenix); in issue #199 of THE X-MEN, Rachel assumed the power of Phoenix (her birthright, as a Phoenix only dies to be born again); the title of FANTASTIC FOUR #286 (a cross-over with X-FACTOR #1) is "Like a Phoenix..." and the article in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #33 talks about Scott Summers being emotionally devastated.

Ben Diehl
360 Colusa
Ventura, CA 93004

Rachel Summers' destiny continues with the X-Men, *Ben*—and just imagine, if she's had so much trouble dealing with the fact that this Scott Summers is not the one that she knew as her father, how is she going to cope with the fact that her "mother" isn't really dead—but isn't really Phoenix either?

Dear Marvelites,

I think I know who the fifth member of X-Factor is! She may not be Jean Grey, but according to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #33, she is "Like a Phoenix." It must be someone else with the Phoenix power—or a power closely resembling it.

Why does the story begin in THE AVENGERS, you ask? Might she have been an **Avenger** at one time? Could the Celestial Madonna have been exposed to the same solar radiation that made Jean Grey become Phoenix? Or been granted Phoenix or Phoenix-like powers? You know what I'm getting at. It's **Mantis**, isn't it?

I hope so. She'd make an interesting addition to X-FACTOR.

Darby Orcutt
Rt. 1, Box 184-B
North Windham, CT 06256

Dear Mutants,

So the new member of X-FACTOR will be showing up in a cross-over with AVENGERS and FANTASTIC FOUR, huh? So that means the fifth member will be (a) a mutant, natch, (b) have something to do with the ol' Assemblers, and (c) be connected to the FF as well. That spells **F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N R-I-C-H-A-R-D-S** to me. He's a mutant, he's the son of Reed and Sue, and he's living at Avengers Mansion.

So am I right or am I right?

Raoul Martin
No Address On Letter

Mantis? Franklin Richards? Not quite (though Franklin-fans should be watching for his appearances in POWER PACK, and Mantis-boosters will be glad to see the new SILVER SURFER Limited Series when it comes out).

Gentlemen,

It has come to my attention that there will be an X-FACTOR comic premiering sometime in the fall of this year featuring the original X-Men. Since Jean Grey is dead, there would seem to be a problem regarding the fifth member. Please make an intelligent, *original* selection, and do not, *DO NOT*, simply endow Madelyne Summers with super powers (YAWN!).

S.D.E.
Columbia University

Well, S.D.E., does the return of Jean strike you as "original" enough as she's the fifth original X-Man?

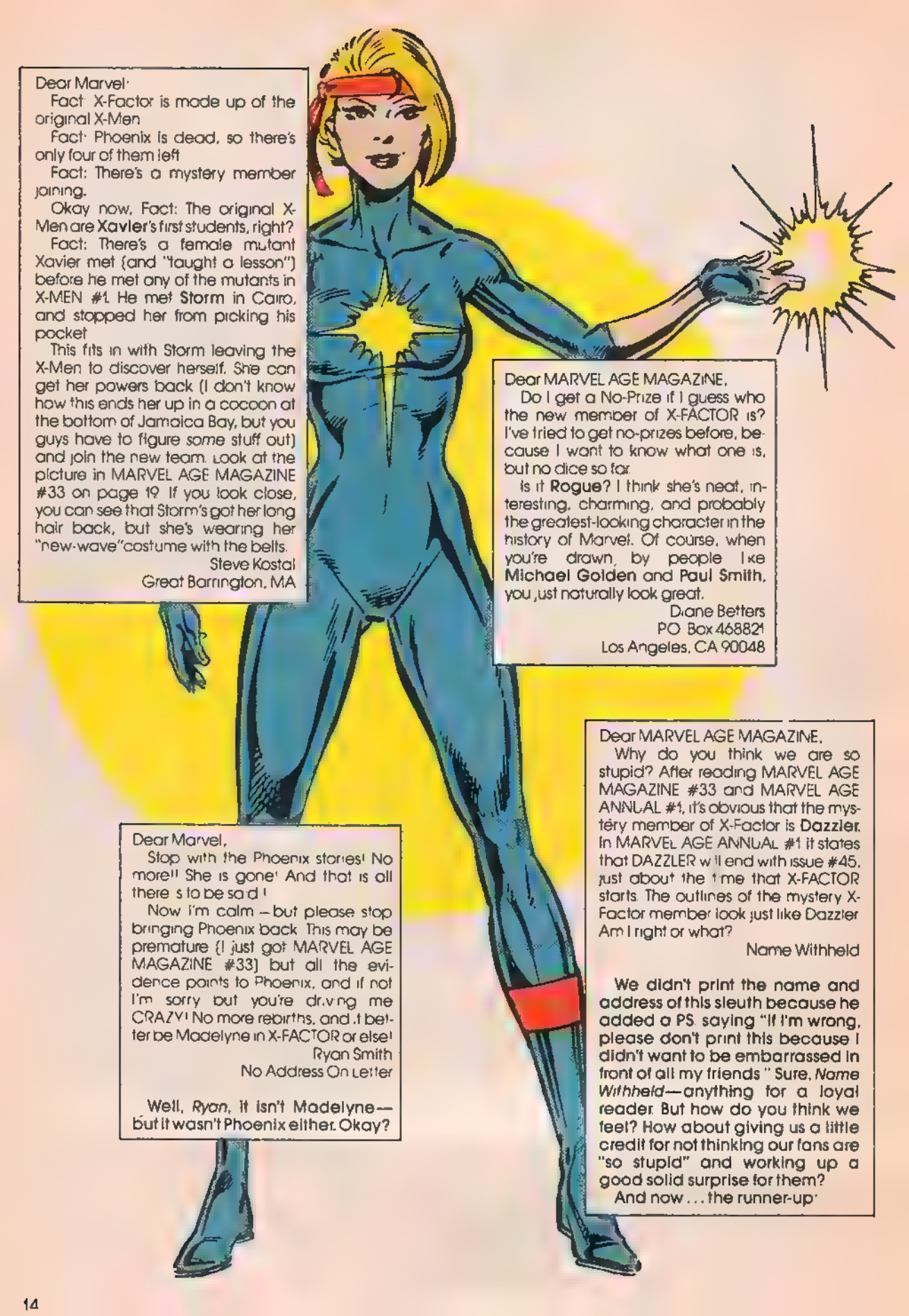
Dear Marvel Madmen,

I don't believe any of it. You guys are always trying to fool us, trying to lead us in one direction and then pulling the rug out from under us. All your clues about the fifth X-Factor member make it look like either Madelyne or Rachel. I think you're faking. I don't even think it's a woman. I think it's **Wolverine**.

Yeah, Wolverine. You've got people all confused over whether he's more properly an **X-Man** or an **Alpha Flight-er**, and now you're going to add a third group to the fuss.

Of course, now that I've guessed this, you're probably going to switch it to **the Kingpin** or **Galactus** or somebody.

Mr. Cynical
33 Cedar Circle
Randolph, MA



Dear Marvel·

Fact: X-Factor is made up of the original X-Men

Fact· Phoenix is dead, so there's only four of them left

Fact: There's a mystery member joining.

Okay now, Fact: The original X-Men are **Xavier**'s first students, right?

Fact: There's a female mutant Xavier met (and "taught a lesson") before he met any of the mutants in X-MEN #1. He met **Storm** in Cairo, and stopped her from picking his pocket

This fits in with Storm leaving the X-Men to discover herself. She can get her powers back (I don't know how this ends her up in a cocoon at the bottom of Jamaica Bay, but you guys have to figure *some* stuff out) and join the new team. Look at the picture in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #33 on page 19. If you look close, you can see that Storm's got her long hair back, but she's wearing her "new-wave" costume with the belts.

Steve Kostal
Great Barrington, MA

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Do I get a No-Prize if I guess who the new member of X-FACTOR is? I've tried to get no-prizes before, because I want to know what one is, but no dice so far.

Is it **Rogue**? I think she's neat, interesting, charming, and probably the greatest-looking character in the history of Marvel. Of course, when you're drawn by people like **Michael Golden** and **Paul Smith**, you just naturally look great.

Diane Betters
PO Box 468821
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Marvel,

Stop with the Phoenix stories! No more!! She is gone! And that is all there is to be said!

Now I'm calm – but please stop bringing Phoenix back. This may be premature (I just got MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #33) but all the evidence points to Phoenix, and if not I'm sorry but you're driving me CRAZY! No more rebirths, and it better be Madelyne in X-FACTOR or else!

Ryan Smith
No Address On Letter

Well, *Ryan*, it isn't Madelyne—but it wasn't Phoenix either. Okay?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Why do you think we are so stupid? After reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #33 and MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #1, it's obvious that the mystery member of X-Factor is **Dazzler**. In MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #1 it states that DAZZLER will end with issue #45, just about the time that X-FACTOR starts. The outlines of the mystery X-Factor member look just like Dazzler. Am I right or what?

Name Withheld

We didn't print the name and address of this sleuth because he added a PS. saying "If I'm wrong, please don't print this because I didn't want to be embarrassed in front of all my friends." Sure, *Name Withheld*—anything for a loyal reader. But how do you think we feel? How about giving us a little credit for not thinking our fans are "so stupid" and working up a good solid surprise for them?

And now . . . the runner-up·

Dear Sneaky Pluggers at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I know who it is! The missing X-Factor member is Phoenix! Yes! Jean Grey! You heard me! She is the only missing member! Sure, she's dead, but you guys can pull it off, can't you? With aces like **Bob Layton** and **Jackson Guice**? Sure!

A Loyal Marvelite
From South Orange, NJ

Pretty close, *LM*, but there was one that came closer...

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Who is the fifth member of X FACTOR? It isn't Phoenix because she's dead. So then who is the fifth member? Well, how about Marvel Girl? That's right—somehow Marvel Girl and Phoenix are two separate entities and the entity that was Phoenix died while the entity that is Jean Grey is still alive in the cocoon. This probably happened at the time when Marvel Girl was becoming Phoenix in issues #100–101, but since I haven't read them I can't make any comments on them.

You guys sure were clever though, telling us all along that X-FACTOR would feature the original X-Men, and of course Marvel Girl is an original X-Man, not Phoenix. Well, am I right or am I right?

Vince Scelfo
Montreal, Canada

You're right, *Vince*, and congratulations! Yours was the only letter that correctly guessed that the fifth member would be Jean Grey but would *not* be Phoenix. Well done!

And in closing, we'd like to thank everyone who cared enough to write in with his or her guesses. As many people have pointed out, the creation of X-FACTOR (not to mention the return of Jean Grey) stirs up a lot of questions about the Marvel Universe, the X-Men, mutants in general, and the personal lives of the characters involved (for example, how are Madelyne and Rachel going to be affected?). Well, this *one* question has been answered, and all we can say about the others is—keep watching. All will be revealed in time. Of course, by then we'll have cooked up a whole batch of new questions, problems, and what-have-you, but that's the way it goes here at Marvel.

—Kurt Busiek

It's Genetic

by **Kyle Baker**

BRRRNNG

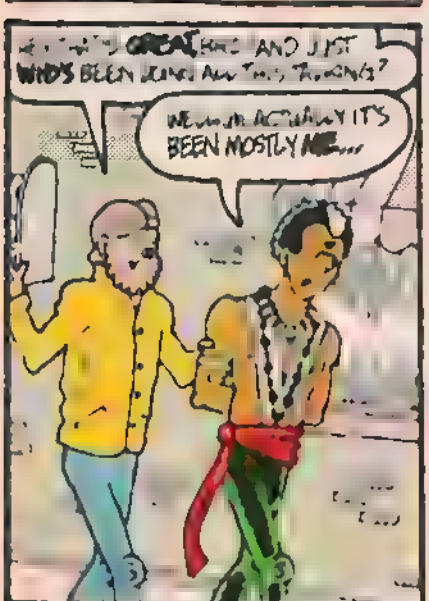
HELLO? YES, THIS IS AN EDITOR AT MARVEL COMICS. WHAT'S THAT? YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA AS TO HOW TO REVIVE THE TEAM-UP COMIC CONCEPT?

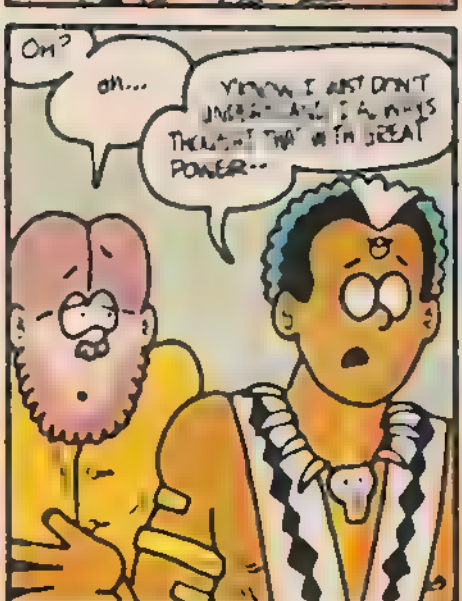
LOOK PAL, WE TRIED IT FOR A LONG TIME WITH TWO OF OUR MOST POPULAR [illegible] BUT AFTER AWHILE THE IMPROBABILITY OF THEM RUNNING INTO ALL DIFFERENT GUEST STARS EACH MONTH BECAME TOO MUCH PLUS, ADDED TO THAT IS OWN SERIES, THE TEAM UP BIG WAS JUST STRETCHING THEM TOO THIN, SO--

HA HA HA HA

THANKS FOR GIVING ME MY LAUGH OF THE DAY, PAL, BUT RIGHT NOW I'VE [illegible] AGAIN IF YOU THINK OF A TOP THAT ONE!
'BYE.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
JUST GOT A CALL FROM SOME [illegible] WHO WANTS US TO REVIVE MARVEL TEAM-UP, ONLY INSTEAD OF SPIDER-MAN, YOU KNOW WHO HE WANTS TO STAR IN EVERY ISSUE?
NO WHO?


GREAT
AND JUST WHO'S BEEN DOING ALL THIS THINKING?
ACTUALLY IT'S BEEN MOSTLY ME...


OH?
OH...
YKNOW, I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A GUY WHO'S THOUGHT THAT WITH GREAT POWER--

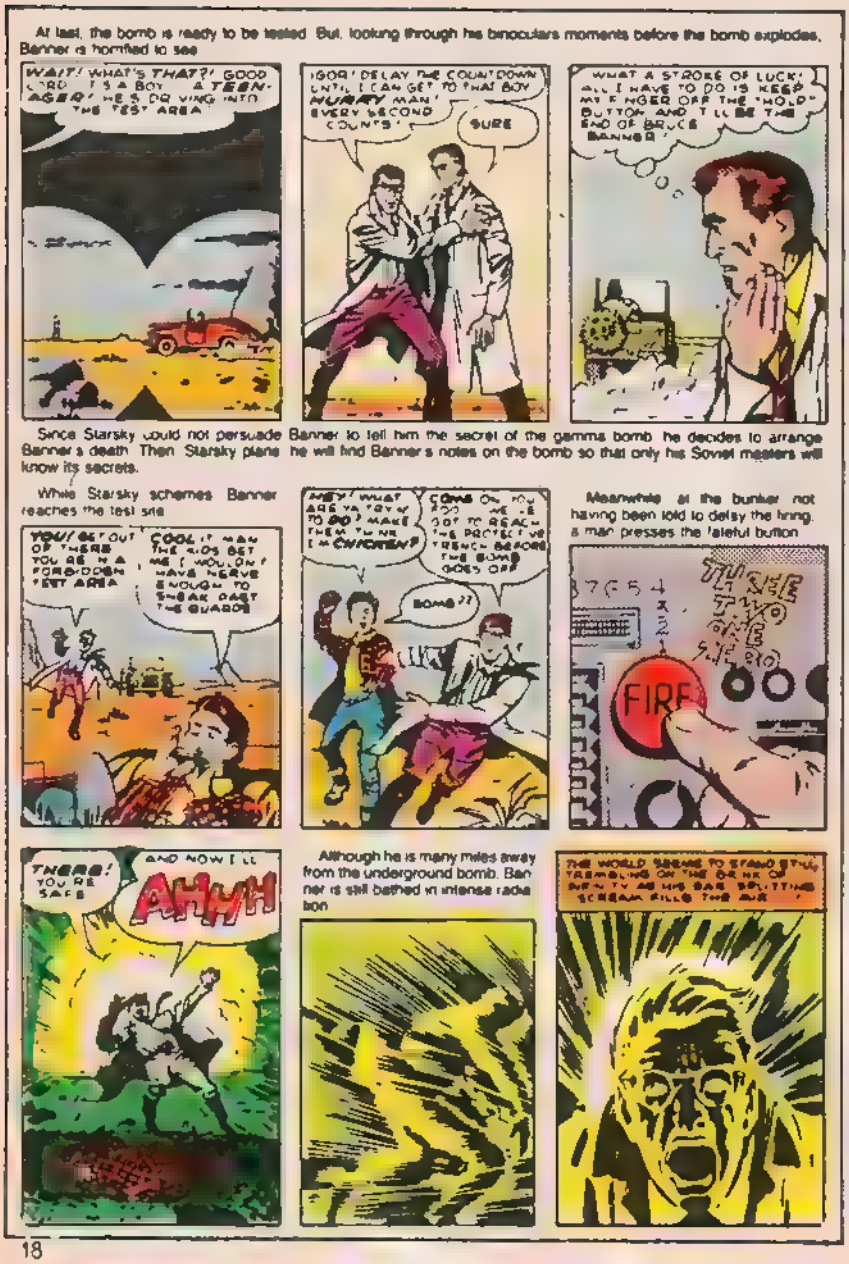
--CAME GREAT FAME!
HEY, WE GREAT BUT YOU KNOW MAYBE I COULD EVEN WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE CRIMES WE'RE THINKING ABOUT--
IF YOU'RE STILL INTO IT

WHAT'S THAT? YOU SAY THAT WE SHOULD USE A CHARACTER NOT TIED DOWN IT HIS OWN SERIES AS THE ANCHOR?
AND THAT HE WOULDN'T RELY UPON COINCIDENCE TO PROVIDE A STEADY STREAM OF ... BUT WOULD INSTEAD USE OCCULT MEANS?
AS FAR AS I KNOW DR STRANGE'S BOOK IS STILL BEING PUBLISHED SO WHO EXACTLY DO YOU HAVE IN MIND TO BE THE STAR OF THIS FOR LACK OF A BETTER NAME VERSION OF MARVEL TEAM-UP?
BROTHER VOODOO?! WHAT KIND OF A NUT WOULD APPLY TO BE BROTHER VOODOO EACH AND EVERY MONTH?..
BROTHER VOODOO? IS THAT YOU?
HUH? I'M FIRED
WHO YOU BEEN TALKIN' TO?
ON THE FOURS UP AT THE MARVEL OFFICES DO YOU KNOW THERE'S BEEN SOME TALK OF ME ANCHORING A NEW MONTHLY TEAM-UP TITLE?
THAT WOULD BE GREAT!
YEAH WOULDN'T IT.
..TOO BAD THERE'S NO WAY MARVEL WOULD LET THIS GUY WRITE AND DRAW A LIMITED SERIES...
..TOO BAD THERE'S NO WAY MARVEL WOULD LET THIS GUY STAR IN A LIMITED SERIES...
C'MON I'M HUNGRY. LET'S GO ... SOME CHICKEN
DO THEY SERVE IT COOKED, OR?..
LOOKED AT LIVE, WHY?
I PREFER MY CHICKENS LIVE.
IT'S MY RELIGION. YOU KNOW...

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX SERIES™

THE MARVEL SAGA™

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE™ DELUXE EDITION


At last, the bomb is ready to be tested. But, looking through his binoculars moments before the bomb explodes, Banner is horrified to see
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?! GOOD LORD, IT'S A BOY... A TEEN-AGER! HE'S DRIVING INTO THE TEST AREA
IGOR! DELAY THE COUNTDOWN UNTIL I CAN GET TO THAT BOY MURMY MAN! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
SURE
WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP MY FINGER OFF THE "HOLD" BUTTON AND I'LL BE THE END OF BRUCE BANNER!
Since Starsky could not persuade Banner to tell him the secret of the gamma bomb, he decides to arrange Banner's death. Then Starsky plans he will find Banner's notes on the bomb so that only his Soviet masters will know its secrets.
While Starsky schemes Banner reaches the test site
YOU'RE OUT OF THERE YOU'RE IN A FORBIDDEN TEST AREA
COOL IT MAN THE KIDS BET ME I WOULDN'T HAVE NERVE ENOUGH TO SNEAK PAST THE GUARDS
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING? THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
COME ON, YOU AND ME GOT TO REACH THE PROTECTIVE TRENCH BEFORE THE BOMB GOES OFF
BOMB?!
Meanwhile at the bunker not having been told to delay the firing, a man presses the fateful button
FIRE
THERE! YOU'RE SAFE
AND NOW I'LL
AHHH
Although he is many miles away from the underground bomb, Banner is still bathed in intense radiation
THE WORLD SEEMS TO STAND STILL TREMBLING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH AS HIS BAR-SPLITTING SCREAM FILLS THE AIR

Each and every month, our Marvel Age articles cover Marvel's history, year by year and title by title. Where would you look, though, if you wanted to read a complete linear history of Marvel, including stories that fill in gaps in characters' pasts? Where would you look if, for instance, you wanted to know what happened during the Fantastic Four's first battle with Doctor Doom? A few short years ago, the only way you could find out the answers to these questions would have been to look through lots of old Marvel Comics. Even if you had all the pertinent issues, though, how might you find out all the powers of Doctor Doom's incredible armor, its strengths and limitations? And how could you find out where that first battle fit in with the rest of Marvel's history? For decades, the only way to discover that information and answers to other similar questions about other Marvel characters was to consult your ever-increasing stack of Marvel Comics. While looking through your old Marvels is always fun, it might take quite a while to find the answer to a specific question.

Now there is another, more convenient way to find out the facts you need to know. It is a three-part answer: THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION, MARVEL SAGA and the OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX series.

While we are the first to agree that nothing can compare to the excitement and fun of having and reading the original classic comics that supply all the information used in these reference publications, these new titles provide a service that actually goes beyond the mere relating of information. They also provide, or rather, preserve the original comics'

worth! As MARVEL INDEX compiler **George Olshevsky** put it, "Instead of having to pull out my collection to find out something, instead of having to handle all the different comics and risk damaging their condition and thus lowering their value, all I have to do is flip through a couple of the indices and I quickly get everything I want."

In addition, MARVEL SAGA editor **Danny Fingeroth** said, "I think they are interesting to read as well. The three, HANDBOOK, SAGA, and the indices, complement each other pretty well. I think that, combined, they contain all that anyone would ever possibly want to know about the Marvel characters."

The MARVEL INDEX series focuses on individual stories of a particular title, presently AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TEAM-UP, both edited by **Mark Gruenwald**, and THE FANTASTIC FOUR, edited by **Mike Higgins**. They contain a gold mine of information, presenting not just a detailed story synopsis and a color cover reproduction of the individual issues, but also story credits for everything, including the cover. Such credit information has occasionally revealed some big surprises. As Mike Higgins said, "**Artie Simek**, a letterer of many early Marvel comics, finally received credit as the inker of THE FANTASTIC FOUR #1, which for years was a job originally thought to have been done by **Sol Brodsky**."

The depth and detail of the INDEX series is complemented by the scope and panorama of the MARVEL SAGA. Danny Fingeroth said, "MARVEL SAGA is designed to give people a coherent view of the entire Marvel Universe in an exciting way."

SAGA writer **Peter Sanderson**, who also assists Mark Gruenwald on MARVEL UNIVERSE, added, "We're putting everything into chronological order and making all the stories in the Marvel Universe fit together." Peter also was excited about the fact that, "Through doing MARVEL SAGA I feel that we are also bringing to a whole new audience a taste of all these great stories that were the foundation of the Marvel Universe. We're showing people who were not around in the early Sixties what these stories were like, why they were so great and we're also showing how the Marvel Universe has remained consistent for so long—twenty-five years now!"

All this attention to story is enriched by the emphasis on the characters in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. In fact, so important was the HANDBOOK that after it first appeared it was quickly updated and expanded to form the present Deluxe Edition.

MARVEL UNIVERSE editor Mark Gruenwald stated that most people, the professional writers and artists, especially, told him that he should have produced a MARVEL UNIVERSE series much earlier!

Mark said, "HANDBOOK is indispensable for costume reference and learning in a nutshell everything possible about a character. Unfortunately, things are out of date in it already. It's the nature of the beast. The Marvel Universe as an entity is always changing. We knew that when we did the first series. And we knew that information that went in could be, and often was, out of date within a matter of months. We definitely plan to do updates. We are right now looking at other formats, seeing what would work best. Fortunately we're not going to have to do a complete edition from scratch again."

MARVEL UNIVERSE began years ago, an inspiration of Editor-in-Chief **Jim Shooter**. "I had an idea to do what I called the MARVEL SUPER-SPECIFICATIONS HANDBOOK," Jim said. "It was an idea that I got when I was in a bookstore, flipping through a military book that had all sorts of aircraft and weapons pictures and specifications. I thought Mark Gruenwald would be the right person for a project like this. And as is my usual way of doing things, I didn't force him to do my idea exactly. I simply gave him the idea and let him run with it. Mark took the project a lot farther than I had conceived. I originally saw it as a series with pin-ups and brief specification sheets. He made it much more elaborate with every character's origin, history and a long description of what

The Fantastic Four

#85 April 1969

Cover Credits

Artists: **Jack Kirby** (penciler) and **Joe Sinnott** (inker)
Lettering typographical

STORY

"Within This Tortured Land" (20 Pages)

Credits

Editor, co-plotter, scripter: **Stan Lee**
Co-plotter, penciler: **Jack Kirby**
Inker: **Joe Sinnott**
Letterer: **Art Simek**

Supporting Characters

Crystal and **Sue Richards**

Villains

Dr. Doom
Hauptmann (first appearance: a former Nazi now employed by Dr. Doom)

Other Characters

An unidentified SHIELD agent (first appearance, poses as a portrait painter in this story; revealed as a SHIELD agent in his next appearance, in issue #87; this is the SHIELD agent whom Nick Fury refers to as having vanished in Latveria in the previous issue)
Latverian citizens (including restaurant employees and two rebels)
A real-estate agent (first appearance)
Four boys (first appearance for all four)

Comment

Dr. Doom's army of twelve super-robots is introduced in this story. (An arm of one of the robots is seen and destroyed in the previous issue.) The super-robots, which have humanoid form but do not otherwise resemble human beings, are not to be confused with Doom's robot guards. The guards, who wear violet uniforms and rather closely resemble real people, are seen throughout Latveria in the stories in issues #84-87. Following #87, these guards are given different uniforms and they appear next in the Dr. Doom story in AST[illegible]SHING TALES #1. They are called "[illegible] guards" in issue #198.

Synopsis

In a village in Latveria, Reed Richards's escape attempt has just been halted by a stun blast from an electronic spy scope that arose from the sidewalk. Johnny, Sue, Ben Grimm, and Crystal help Reed to his feet as Doom's face appears on the scope to tell them that he has neutralized their powers. Now says Doom, they must obey his every order for as long as he allows them to live. Furious, Ben rushes toward the device, but it swiftly retracts into the sidewalk and three of Doom's robot guards appear. One of them bowls Ben over with another stun blast, which proves that Ben's superhuman strength is indeed gone. Likewise, when Johnny tries to flame on, he discovers that he can only become lukewarm.

Angry, dismayed, and perplexed, the four teammates continue down the street, wondering how Doom managed to remove their powers. Reed reminds them that they are still on assignment for SHIELD to find and destroy Doom's secret robot army. As they pass by a sidewalk cafe, the owner urges them inside, saying that all their food is being provided for free by their generous sovereign. Reed comments that even in ancient times it was customary to keep slaves well fed.

Meanwhile, Doom watches them on a viewscreen in his castle. He dislikes being compared to a mere slave-owner because even slaves could occasionally escape, unlike the Fantastic Four. However, just to make sure they cannot escape, he muses, he will expose them again to his hypnopendulum. Then Doom lowers his chair from his main console to the floor below, where he learns from his assistant Hauptmann, that "the test" is about to begin. As Doom and Hauptmann walk down a corridor toward the demonstration area, Doom remarks that the world is beginning to suspect the existence of his secret robot army. He wonders what Hauptmann's long-dead Fuehrer would have given for such an army, and Hauptmann replies that Doom's brilliance rivals that of the notorious Nazi criminal, the Red Skull, himself. Furious at being compared with anyone else, Doom slams Hauptmann into a wall. Doom has no rivals, he roars. Did he not he easily defeat Hauptmann from the Red Skull?

When they enter the test area, they see two guards beating up two Latverians. Doom applauds the guards, explaining that the human guinea pigs will be useless if they are injured. Then, with his back deliberately turned toward the Latverians, Doom tells the guards that they must be more firm to the poor misguided misfreants. Doom knows that the Latverians are about to attack him, but he lets one seize his gun and the other pin his arms. Howling, Doom and the guards all beat the rebels down, face for the test. The guards give chase, but Doom restrains them, saying that everything is going according to plan. He could have killed the men with a single blow, he continues, but he wants them to find the mechanized dreadnaught that he has left in their path. When they try to use the dreadnaught in their getaway, he says, that will be the test.

The two Latverians soon enter the huge war machine, start it up, and send it plowing through a wall. But one of Doom's new robots appears ahead of them. They shoot it with a rocket burst, but the hail-ton missile shell has no effect. Then the robot swiftly tears the vehicle open, seizes the fugitives, and binds them for Doom's guards. Doom, watching through binoculars, says that the test is not finished and tells Hauptmann to stand behind him, where he will be shielded by Doom's armor. Then the dreadnaught's four gatlings in a frontal position, but the robot remains unharmed. Doom is delighted with his creation. If one robot is so mighty, he gloats to Haupt

powers he had, how they worked and so on. I only discovered later that Mark, himself, had suggested something similar years ago called the MARVEL ENCYCLOPEDIA. So somewhere between my SPECIFICATIONS HANDBOOK and Mark's ENCYCLOPEDIA came the MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK."

MARVEL SAGA, Danny Fingeroth told us, was another one of Jim Shooter's ideas. Jim was concerned that with over two decades of Marvel Universe history, many of the new readers, and a good share of the older readers as well, might not know how everything originated. "And even for the old fans, we thought that it would be a good way for them to fill the story out," Danny said. Even though there are twenty-five years of history in real time, in the time-lines established in the Marvel Universe, only a few years have passed. So that, for example, Danny said, "You have the origin of **Iron Man** in a comic that came out in 1963. Then you learn about his first meeting with **Rhodey** in a comic that came out in 1981." Even though there are 18 years difference between the telling of those two stories, they are actually consecutive events. And it is the job of MARVEL SAGA to draw incidents like this closer together.

One thing Danny was very quick to point out was the fact that "MARVEL SAGA does not make up stuff and thus prevent anybody from writing a story. We don't fill in the gaps. It's important for us not to do that."

Danny likens his work on MARVEL SAGA to that of assembling a giant jigsaw puzzle. Putting together all the different facts of the Marvel story has yielded in Danny's eyes another bonus for the reader, the reproduction of art from the original stories. As Danny said, "Do you know anybody who draws better than **Jack Kirby**, **Steve Ditko** and **Don Heck**? I'm not trying to take anything away from **John Byrne**, **John Buscema** or **Bob Layton**, but when you ask these guys who they were inspired by, they all point to Kirby, Ditko, Heck, etc. Also, I think it's important to show the art from these original stories. It's going back to the source."

For George Olshevsky, the passion of presenting facts about the early issues of Marvel's comics was so great that he began publishing indices about the different titles on his own years ago when he was in college. "I saw a need for an index containing all the information possible about the different issues of a title as my own collection started growing. I had to have a handy reference so that I wouldn't be spending so much time searching through my collection," George said. "And apparently other people felt the same way. First I simply made copies for friends of the computer index of my own collection. Then as more and more people wanted copies of it, I got permission from Marvel to publish a series of indices on the different titles."

These were the first major indices ever published about comics and featured color covers by many of comicdoms top illustrators. As the years passed, these old indices became out of date. Seeing a need for a new set of indices, George returned to Marvel. George talked to **Carol Kalish**, telling her he wanted to do an updated index on **Spider Man**. Carol thought it was a great idea and, more importantly, that this was something that Marvel itself should publish. Encouraged George quickly went over to talk to Jim Shooter. Jim readily saw that the combination of George's enthusiasm and research ability and Marvel's editorial input could produce the definitive index not only of Spider-Man, but of every Marvel comic. In fact it is George's hope to eventually do just that. As George sees it, "The Marvel Universe is like a big interconnected novel that's like 7,500 chapters long. So you can't really have a good picture of the thing without having access to what is happening in all the different chapters. If you're just interested in Spider-Man, that's one thing. But when you see how Spider-Man fits in with all the other characters and all the other time-lines, it's just -wow!"

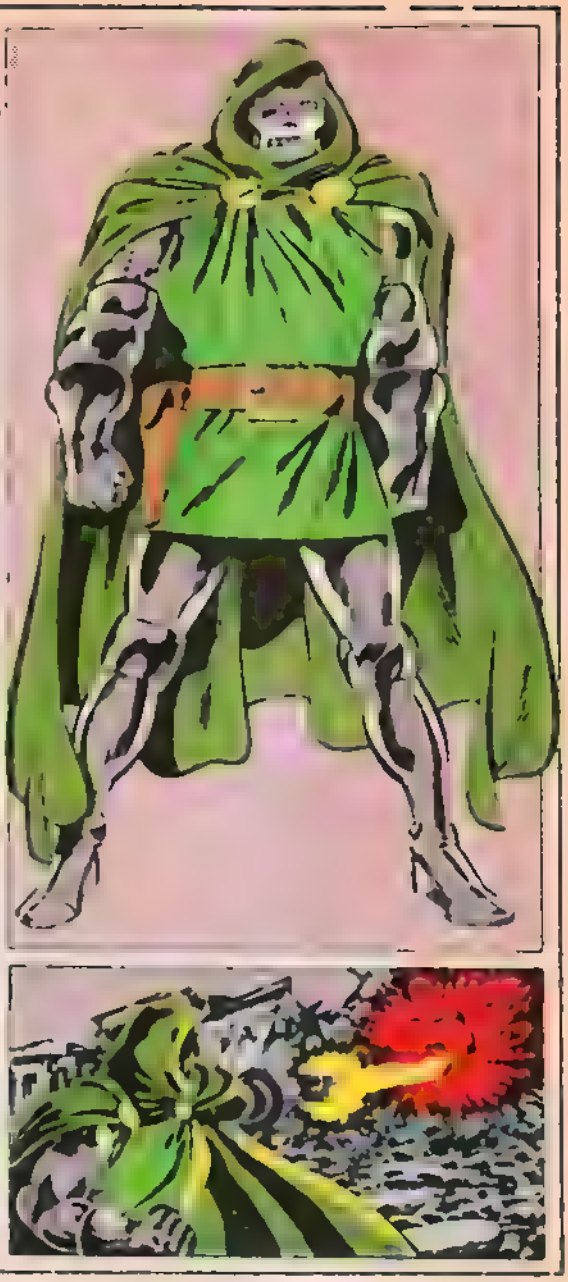
George chose Spider-Man as the first character for the MARVEL INDEX series because **Peter Parker's** years in college provide the canon

DOCTOR DOOM

Real Name: Victor von Doom
Occupation: Monarch
Identity: Publicly known
Legal status: King of Latveria, with full diplomatic immunity in the United States
Former aliases: Vincent Vaughn, Norman McArthur
Place of birth: Gypsy camp outside Haasenstadt (now Doomstadt), Latveria
Marital status: Single
Known relatives: Werner (father, deceased) Cynthia (mother deceased)
Group affiliation: None
Base of operations: Castle Doom, Doomstadt, Latveria
First appearance: FANTASTIC FOUR #5
Origin: FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #2
History: Victor von Doom was born to Werner von Doom, a gypsy healer, and Cynthia von Doom, who is said to have been a witch. While Victor von Doom was still an infant, his mother was killed under as yet unrevealed circumstances. Later, when Victor was still a child, his father was hunted by the authorities for his failure to cure a Latverian baron's wife of terminal cancer. Werner von Doom and his son fled, but the elder von Doom died of exposure to cold. Anguished by his father's death, the young von Doom vowed to make the entire world pay for his loss of his parents.

While in the care of Bons, a friend of his father's, who remains in von Doom's service today, the young von Doom discovered his mother's legacy to him, a chest containing herbs, medicines, and objects said to have magical powers. It was on discovering the chest that von Doom decided that his mother must indeed have been a witch. He saw these artifacts as his means to gaining power, and began learning their uses. Von Doom also began developing his own innate scientific abilities. For years he traveled the countryside, peddling clever devices and potions he had created to the gullible, knowing that they would turn worthless soon after he left. Meanwhile, he continued to increase his knowledge. As his obsession with gaining power and vengeance grew, von Doom became increasingly distant from his childhood friend, a young, beautiful gypsy woman named Valeria, much to her distress.

The dean of science at State University in America heard of von Doom's astounding reputation and offered him a scholarship. Traveling to America to take advantage of the university's laboratory facilities, von Doom met Reed Richards, a brilliant science student there. Sometime later, von Doom was in the midst of testing a device for interdimensional communication when Richards paid a visit to von Doom's headquarters. Not seeing von Doom about, Richards examined his notes on the experiment and discovered an error in his calculations. Enraged at finding Richards going over his notes, von Doom refused to listen to Richards' warning and ordered him out of his quarters. Von Doom proceeded to use the device, hoping it would enable him to communicate with his dead mother whose spirit, he believed, was trapped in some hellish netherworld. The machine malfunctioned and exploded, injuring von Doom. While convalescing, von Doom was expelled from the university and formed the irrational belief that Richards was responsible for the machine's failure. Von Doom discovered that the explosion had left a long,



dar for the whole Marvel Universe. If we know how many years Peter Parker spent in college, then we know how many years passed for the Fantastic Four during the same interval, and for **the Hulk** and for all the other Marvel characters because, as I've discovered, the different comics more or less keep pace with each other. In terms of Marvel Time, they are all probably within six or seven months of each other."

"In working on the index for the Fantastic Four, I've found that the FF has fallen into this pattern quite well. **Johnny Storm's** years in high school and college can all be made to follow along with Peter Parker's years in high school and college."

George's reaction to this meshing was one of astonishment. "It's absolutely remarkable what **Stan**, Jack and Steve did. They did make some effort, obviously, to make sure everything was handled rationally, but I don't think they made a conscious effort to keep so close a track of everything. But when I sat down and did the actual research and cross-referencing and saw how well everything started coming together, it was almost eerie! You wonder how much of this they actually had in their minds and how much of it just happened."

George's two editors, Mark Gruenwald and Mike Higgins, have provided invaluable help and support. In fact, their cooperation extends beyond the workings of these recent INDEX issues. Mark is a long-time friend of George's and Mike provided credit information to George's DAREDEVIL INDEX years ago. "Mike has a very good eye for cover artists, inkers and letterers," George said. "He is the definitive checker for that kind of information."

The reason for that, Mike said, is because, "I used to work in Marvel's production department pasting up covers and doing lettering corrections. So I can identify work done by cover letterers that other people who don't have my background couldn't."

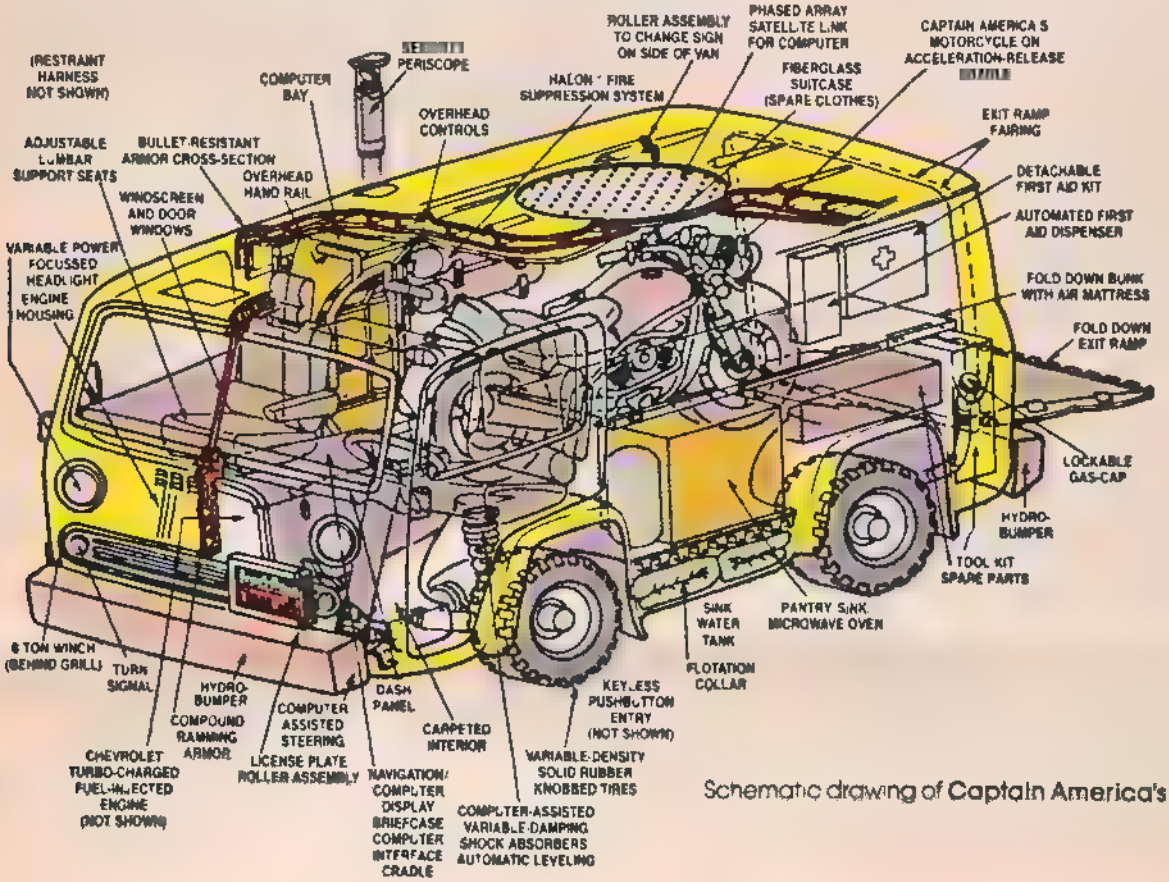
Mike's attraction to being the editor of THE FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX is multifold. "It's the type of book I'm pretty interested in," he said. "I also thought it would come in handy since I'm the assistant editor on the FANTASTIC FOUR. For readers, the older ones, I thought it would be great to re-present those classic stories for everyone who ever read them in their original form and has fond memories of them. And for the people who weren't able to get the issues when they first appeared they can get in on what they missed through the FF INDEX."

How has overall reaction been to the publications? Jim Shooter said that all the reference magazines possess a popularity that initially took some people by surprise. "When we did the first UNIVERSE HANDBOOK years ago, for example, we had nothing but doubters and naysayers," Jim said. "And it was an instant hit—a massive hit to the point that our competitors have picked up on the idea."

This popularity came as no surprise to Jim because these were exactly the sorts of things he felt would sell years ago. "When I worked at another company, I always wanted to introduce into my stories files and statistics about the various characters and show all these tidbits of information. But my editors wouldn't let me. I was told not to do it because kids didn't like charts and graphs, that it would be unpopular and boring. One editor even called me the writer who wanted to write railroad timetables because I kept wanting to put in all this information about the characters."

"MARVEL SAGA, for instance, was something that if it had existed when I was a kid, I would have loved it." Jim said that some of his best and most popular ideas have come from that sort of observation—what would he have enjoyed seeing when he was young? "I'm happy to see that my assessment was correct. The stuff that I would have loved when I was a reader is indeed something that other people want—and want a lot."

—*Dwight Jon Zimmerman*



Schematic drawing of **Captain America's** van

Michae Gallagher

STAR SPOTLIGHT

HEATHCLIFF!™

You've seen him in the newspapers! You've watched him on TV! And if you haven't seen him in his very own Star Comic, you've been missing a big treat! He's that fun-loving, freewheeling feline — **Heathcliff!**

HEATHCLIFF is really a family affair. He was created by cartoonist **George Gately** in 1973 and appears in newspapers throughout the country as a single-panel daily comic strip. George's brother, **John Gallagher**, who is considered by many to be one of the best gag writers around, has also done extensive work on the strip. Continuing the family tradition, **Michael Gallagher**, John's son, has also hitched his wagon to the immense popularity of HEATHCLIFF, not only working on the daily strip, but teaming up with the talented and versatile **Warren Kremer** to produce Marvel's Star Comic version of that lovable cat — HEATHCLIFF.

For those of you living in some far-off netherworld, Heathcliff is the family pet of **the Nutmegs**. He is a loving companion, a talented mouser and capable of finding trouble and adventure wherever he goes. And when Heathcliff finds trouble — watch out! It's non-stop thrills, chills and laughter galore.

Michael is very excited about this new format for his favorite feline. "Heathcliff works very well in comics," Michael explained to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. He gives much of the credit for the success of the book to editor **Sid Jacobson**. "Sid is a great teacher. He was very patient with me," Michael said. "It was difficult making the transition from the one panel format to eight page stories, but Sid was very encouraging and helpful."

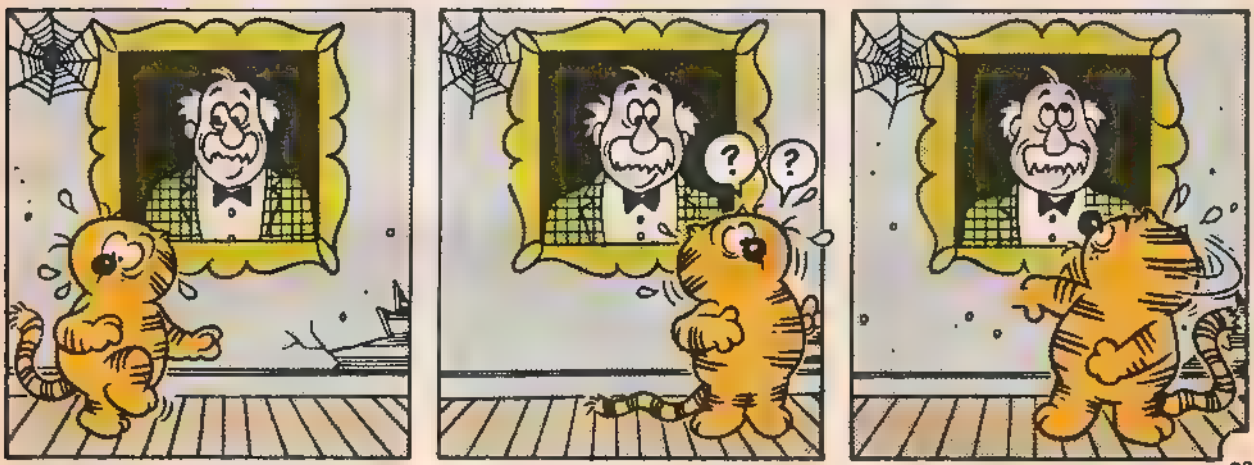
Michael feels that much of the appeal of Heathcliff lies in the fact that he is so much like a *real* cat. "He's not the stereotypical mouse-chasing cat who runs into walls," Michael explained. "He does things that a cat would do. That's why he's so popular among cat lovers. He reminds them of their own cats."

Michael is also very pleased with the new format. It allows him to do things that could never be done in a single panel. "We could never have done anything remotely like the Heathcliff-in-London story (where Heathcliff foils an attempt by some thieves to steal the crown jewels)," Michael remarked.

Heathcliff has enjoyed success on television as well as in comic strips. He has had *two* cartoon shows. Four or five years ago Ruby-Spear animation studios produced a Heathcliff Saturday morning cartoon series for ABC. More recently, Heathcliff has been appearing on a syndicated TV show, in some areas twice a day. The response has been phenomenal. And the response to his new Star comic has been fantastic as well. In fact, there is talk about increasing the frequency to monthly. It looks like HEATHCLIFF is here to stay.

So if you're in the mood for a good chuckle, go no further than the nearest newsstand and ask for the latest issue of HEATHCLIFF. You'll find out what thousands of readers already know: he's the cat's meow!

—Sandy Hausler



HEATHCLIFF © 1986 McNaught Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved

NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

Last month in the New Talent Department, we introduced you to **Tom Lyle**, an aspiring penciler from Baltimore, Maryland. We asked CAPTAIN AMERICA editor **Mike Carlin** and Marvel Art Director **John Romita** to provide a professional critique of sample pages Tom worked on from the plot of CAPTAIN AMERICA #317.

Mike Carlin has been working closely with Tom and had this to say about his latest pages:

"We gave Tom Lyle a professional plot to work from, basically because we were impressed with his artwork and we wanted to see how he could handle a realistic deadline. He did a pretty good job, not perfect, but that's what new guys are for.

The first panel, which is from page seventeen of CAPTAIN AMERICA #317, is a good establishing shot, but it has to be opened up a little. There's no reason for **Hawkeye's** foot to be behind **Cap's** hand when there's so much room on the right.

I also frown upon things sticking out of panels. In this case, panel four has an arrow overlapping onto panel one, which subconsciously pulls the reader to panel four before he goes to panel two.

At the bottom, we have inset panels, which are real tricky because you don't know whether you should read them first or the larger panel.

In the large panel, it's hard to see what the arrows Cap fired did and I only know because I read the plot. Also, Cap is cropped badly and Hawkeye's legs are too big.

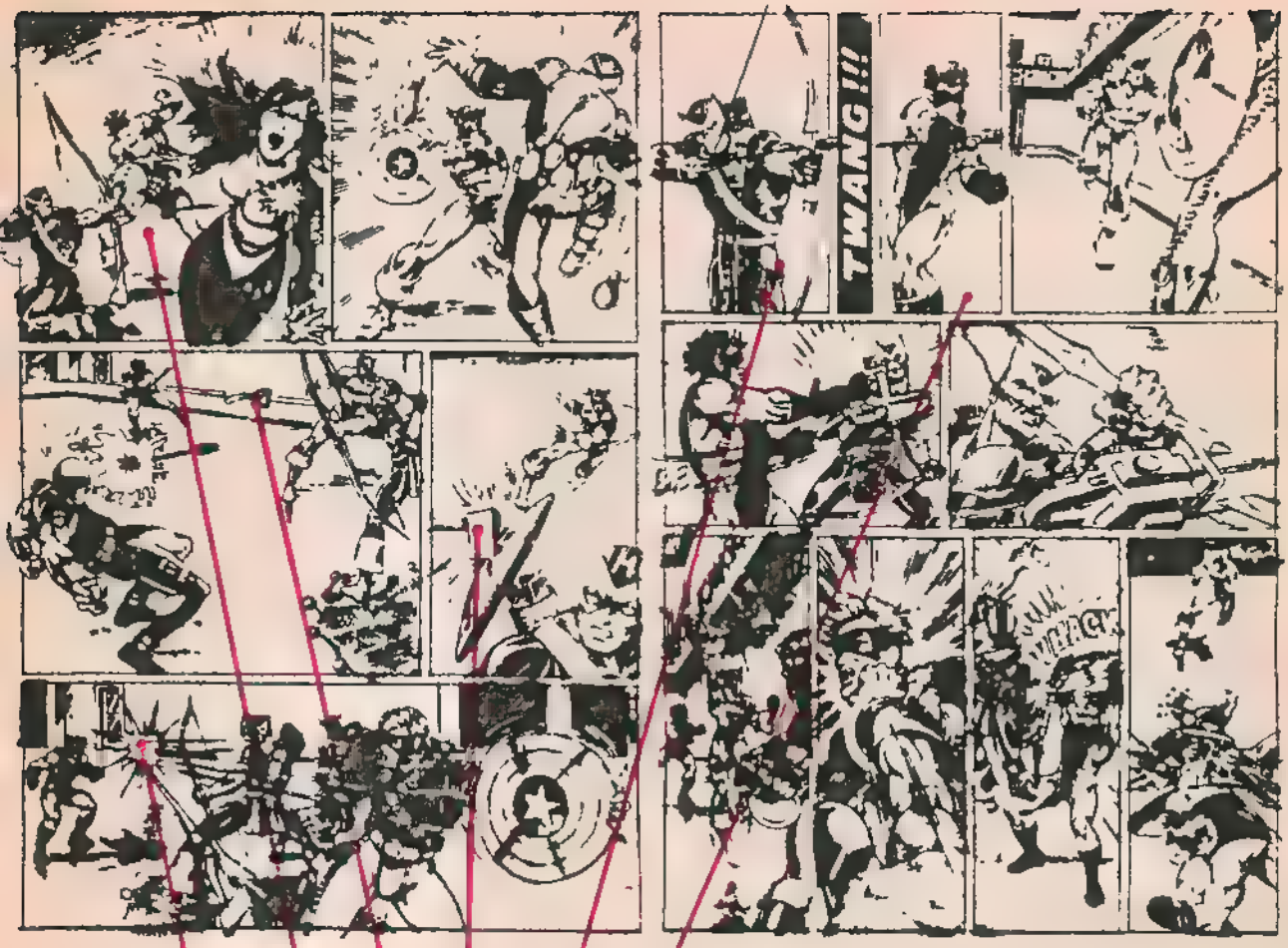
Tom's anatomy is close, but not perfect, he could use some work on that, still. Cap isn't handsome enough on the two close shots we see of him on this page.

Page eighteen starts off good. The background in panel one looks a little hokey, but sometimes that's okay. The Hawkeye figure is pretty good, but we don't know where he's jumping from or to. He also looks like he's flying, which is bad for a character who doesn't fly. Again, things are sticking out of the panel, which isn't that bad here, but when you go to the movies, nothing sticks out of the screen—you should think of every panel as a movie screen.

Generally on this page, Tom didn't leave enough room for copy. In panel four Cap looks like he's flying, again for no reason. Tom needs a reference point to ground his characters. If you were someone who never heard of Captain America, you'd see this and think he could fly, and that's bad.

In panel six, Cap is saving Hawk from the net which I thought didn't get him. We should see what happened to Hawkeye after panel three. Comics is a visual medium and we shouldn't need captions to describe what the artist left out.

Page nineteen starts off with a really good shot and panel two is good also. The second tier sequence is really good. The fourth panel with the bowling pin thrower is the only one whose hands we don't see and could be reworked. The last



panel of the page is really dynamic, but since it probably won't have much copy Tom could have shown more of the figures

Page twenty, panel one, is a little too cramped and you can't tell what Hawkeye is hitting the woman with it could be gruesome, but you don't know. It looks like a spark or a flash and Hawkeye should not set girls on fire. Shock lines, explosions and flames should all be done differently from each other.

Another problem with this page is the continuity especially between panels three and four. In panel three, Cap is right next to Hawkeye with the hatchet on its way, then in panel four, Cap is far enough away to toss his shield and deflect the hatchet. What I would do is take Cap out of panel three and move Hawkeye completely into it. Panel five also lacks clarity. The ricochet wouldn't go the way Tom drew it.

Page twenty-one is good except Tom is generally giving us too many medium shots without people's feet. Close-ups are important and Tom used those well, but there aren't enough full figure shots.

Again, though, the bottom tier shows how Tom is putting characters in to suit the panel and not the continuity of the storytelling. Real time has to take a part in the way he designs the positioning. This needs to be designed a little better.

Tom needs to choreograph his sequences better. When John Romita Sr. draws a sequence, he does a blueprint of the room where everything is taking place, so he knows where everything should be in a given shot. You need to use the background as a reference point. Tom's backgrounds, in general, need work.

You are dealing with characters on a set, like in a play, where each character is supposed to be in a certain spot. Here, all the characters are trying to run in front of the camera, which is Tom's eye, and that's bad. There has to be some consistency to locale.

Tom overlaps too many tangents, he has to pull his characters apart. His drawing is good, but he needs to work on his storytelling and continuity to make sure that the readers knows where everything is happening and how fast everything is happening. The penciler has control over all these elements.

This is a really tough sequence and Tom did well, but it could have been a little clearer. If he had brought in thumbnails before full pencils, we could have solved the problems.

Every new guy goes through this with editors, and Tom is really close to getting a professional job."

* * *

John Romita Sr., Marvel Art Director, talked about more general problems that apply to other artists as well as Tom, rather than a page by page critique.

"The basic thing with Tom Lyle's artwork is that there are some good indications in the way of dramatic impact.

The clarity needs work, which means to set your scenes carefully so that when the reader is at any given moment, at any panel, he has a general feel of where he is and which direction he's looking at. Anybody that is off panel is clearly in mind. If you don't set that scene up properly, it's like a badly directed movie.

The next point is for Tom not to get too intricate with fancy shadowing, which can't be translated into ink. There are a lot of things you can do with pencils that you

can't do with inks. There are limitations and Tom tried to be too ambitious.

Another point is the glamor element. Sometimes, shading changes the features and the age of the characters, and loses that glamor element. Every bump and crease in the guy's face he gets older and less attractive looking, certainly on women.

Some shots of Captain America look enough like him, in others, he looks like an older man with a Captain America costume on.

As far as basic drawing, there are some full figures where he loses the general proportions. The legs will get large, the torsos and heads will get smaller.

Tom needs to work on his grouping or positioning. Characters can be confusing if they're not placed exactly right in proximity to each other. Overlapping is okay, but he mustn't confuse or compress his planes.

The best way to do group scenes is to work on some kind of grid or floor plane, so that everybody seems to be standing on the same level.

The character's silhouettes are very important. Sometimes Tom has a solid black color on a character and he has black crossing in front of black and the silhouette gets lost. Characters with a solid black costume are a task all their own, you can't cross elements over each other without becoming confusing or lumpy. The more intricate the costume, the harder they are to do.

If Tom can keep the work clear and glamorous and make sure he has the proportions ironed out before he goes to finished pencils, I think he'll be all right.

Tom seems just about to break through, which is no guarantee, because you can compound your errors and never improve, but I think if he strikes a chord with an editor, who gives him some tips on how he likes things to be done, he might suddenly blossom.

It isn't so much a drawing process as a thinking process, and Tom could break out in a short time. If he irons out his small problems, he could be getting some work in a matter of months."

—Fabian Nicieza

THE MARVEL AGE

MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

As Marvel's gala twenty-fifth anniversary celebration continues, we here at MARVEL AGE look back at those twenty five years. This month we feature part II of our look at the far out and groovy world of Marvel Comics, 1971, with some of the year's most exciting super hero battles and team-ups, climaxing in the origin of a brand new type of super-team in the pages of MARVEL FEATURE

DAREDEVIL and IRON MAN spent much of 1971 in each other's company, or at least fighting the same foe. It began when S.H.I.E.L.D. Director **Nick Fury** warned **Tony (Iron Man) Stark** that **Spymaster** and the **Espionage Elite**, a band of industrial spies, were after Stark Industries' secrets. With S.H.I.E.L.D.'s help, Iron Man drove Spymaster off, but it turned out that the master spy had been employed by **the Zodiac**, an organization of super-criminals rivaled only by **Hydra** and **A.I.M.** And Zodiac was also after **Daredevil**! Before they were finally defeated, Zodiac even managed to capture Daredevil, Iron Man, Nick Fury, and the beautiful-but-deadly **Madame Masque**! After this battle, DD and Shell-Head went their separate ways for a while; Daredevil stopped a gang of criminals who'd used a chemical to blind everyone in Manhattan, and fought **El Condor** and the **Sub-Mariner** (with some help from **Spider-Man**), while Iron Man fought off **Ramrod** and the alien **Changers**, helped an ex-con against some hoods, and halted **the White Dragon's** attempt to blow up the United Nations (along with half of New York). But before long, Daredevil and Iron Man were once again up against a common foe—the mysterious Mr. Kline! Mr. Kline (or the Assassin, as he later called himself) was a criminal mastermind of rare caliber. Preferring not to fight heroes himself, he used other villains. Some, like **the Man-Bull**, **the Slasher**, **Demitrius**, and **Mikas the Soulfather**, he created. Others, like **the Owl** and **the Scorpion**, he seemed to have recruited. (More on that when we reach 1972!) No matter which of his pawns he used, though, Mr. Kline had quickly become one of Iron Man's and Daredevil's deadliest enemies. As the year ended, Mr. Kline was still at large, Iron Man's friend **Kevin O'Brien** donned his own armor to become the Guardsman, and Daredevil acquired a new partner—**the Black Widow**! Big news indeed.

Probably the biggest news in the pages of THE FANTASTIC FOUR came early in the year when **Reed Richards** actually found a cure for **the Thing**! Now Ben Grimm could turn into the Thing and change back at will! But the process had a side-effect which became apparent during the FF's battles with **Janus the Nega-Man** and **Annihilus**—Ben was becoming increasingly violent and uncontrollable! It wasn't long before he was running amok through the streets of Manhattan, destroying ev-

erything in his path! To make matters worse, a passing cab happened to be carrying a certain **Dr. Robert Bruce Banner**, and the sight of the rampaging Thing was enough to turn Bruce into **the Hulk**! What followed was one of the most titanic battles ever seen in comics (and that's saying a lot)! But in the midst of the battle, Ben got distracted by the voice of his girlfriend, **Alicia**, and the Hulk landed a punch which seemed to have killed him! Ben wasn't actually dead, of course, just severely injured, but the process Reed used to save Ben's life trapped him in the Thing's body once more. Ol' Blue Eyes wouldn't get much time to recover from his injuries, either, as **the Watcher** soon appeared to warn the FF about the **Over-Mind**, the living embodiment of an alien race called **the Eternals** (no relations to the ones who now have their own limited series). The Over-Mind had come to destroy the universe, and for a while, it looked as though he might do it! Even Reed Richards' mighty intellect was defenseless against the Over-Mind, and Reed soon became his slave! Leaderless, the FF searched for help and found it in their greatest enemy, **Dr. Doom**!

But even with Doom at their side, things looked bleak for the FF (not to mention the rest of the universe) until the Over-Mind was banished by **the Stranger**, the embodiment of the Eternals' arch-nemeses, the people of the planet Gigantus! At last, the universe was safe, but **the Human Torch** discovered that his ex-girlfriend, **Crystal** of **the Inhumans**, wasn't! She had become a pawn of the modern-day alchemist **Diablo**, and the Torch rocketed to South America to try to rescue her!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK was also having a busy year, courtesy of writers such as **Roy Thomas**, **Len Wein**, **Gerry Conway**, and **Harlan Ellison** and artists such as **Herb Trimpe**, **Sal Buscema**, **Dick Ayers**, and **John Severin**! The year began with **Kang the Conqueror** sending **the Hulk** back in time to kill Marvel's masked World War II flying ace, **the Phantom Eagle**! Killing the Eagle would have also resulted in the death of Bruce Banner's grandfather, Kang figured that since this would prevent Bruce from being born, it would also prevent the formation of **the Avengers** since they wouldn't have to team up to stop the Hulk. Naturally, the Hulk didn't end up killing the Eagle, but the story still allowed ample oppor-

IRON MAN
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
DON'T DO IT, FURY!
IF YOU TOUCH THE ZODIAC KEY--YOU'LL BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE ON EARTH!
I- DON'T WANT AVENGER
BUT I CAN'T STOP MYSELF--!
GUEST-STARRING:
AND THE MAN CALLED

tunity for aviation buff (and co-creator of the Phantom Eagle) Herb Trimpe to show off his talent drawing beautifully detailed World War I biplanes. The next couple of stories would be a complete change of pace for the Hulk as he joined **Xeron the Star Slayer** and **Captain Cybor** to hunt **Klaatu the Behemoth from Beyond Space**! Unfortunately, Cybor's crew also included the Hulk's old enemy **the Abomination**, so there were quite a few tense moments aboard the ship!

Meanwhile, **the Sandman** had decided that the only way to cure himself (he'd been turned to glass by **Agatha Harkness** two years before) was to undergo a total blood transfusion. And his unwilling donor was done other than **Betty Ross**! The transfusion worked, but it had an unforeseen side effect—Betty became a glass statue! While her family and friends looked for a cure, the Hulk had other things on his mind. He defeated **the Leader**, who'd tried to beat the Hulk with illusions of the Hulk's greatest foes. Then, having been shrunken by **Psyklop** (in science fiction writer Harlan Ellison's AVENGERS story, which we looked at last time), he found brief happiness with **Jarella**, the queen of a sub-atomic world. But his happiness was short-lived as he soon regained normal size. He fought **the Valkyrie** (not the current one, a similar Valkyrie created by **the Enchantress**), and finally, was instrumental in the curing of Betty Ross! Psychiatrist **Leonard Samson** designed a machine with which he drained the Hulk's libidinal energy and fed it into Betty, restoring her to normal! But the good Doctor had another use for the machine in mind as well, turning it on himself, he absorbed the Hulk's energy to become the mighty, green-haired Doc Samson! Even using the Hulk's own strength against him, though, Samson was unable to defeat the Hulk. But it wasn't long before Dr. Doom stepped in to try to turn the Hulk into *his* pawn in his bid for world domination! The Hulk escaped Doom's clutches, only to do battle with aliens resembling ancient Egyptian gods and with the Israeli Army! And meanwhile, **General "Thunderbolt" Ross** had received the go-ahead from the government to set up Project Greenskin, his brand new Hulk buster base! But no sooner had the base become operational than it was seized by the ever-lethal Leader!

The Hulk sure had his hands full, but there was more to come in MARVEL FEATURE as he also became a charter member of Marvel's latest super-team! **Dr. Strange**, having recently taken up sorcery after renouncing it two years earlier, learned that his old enemy **Yandroth** was dying. But Yandroth wasn't going to die alone! He'd built the Omegatron which would destroy the world five hours after his death! Dr. Strange enlisted the aid of **the Sub-Mariner** who (for reasons we'll see next time) suggested that he find the Hulk as well. And so the three pooled their remarkably disparate talents to save the world from the threat of the Omegatron! They did not expect to ever team up again as the Hulk put it, "Hulk was in group once—called Avengers. Didn't like it. But whether he liked it or not, the Hulk would remain a member of Mighty Marvel's new group—**the Defenders**!

And that about wraps it up for this time, so be here next time when we see just *why* the Sub-Mariner recommended the Hulk, and we'll take a look at Spider-Man's 100th issue bash! You'll hate yourself if you miss it!

—*Shelly Fisch*

THE OFFICIAL LETTERS PAGE OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

Thanks are due to "Mean" Ian Bresser of Bethpage, NY, for suggesting this month's letters page title. We promise to be as complete and informative a letters page as possible, and we promise to include the **Beyonder**. (If you don't get that gag, keep reading.)

And as usual, we invite anyone out there who has an idea for future letterco titles to write 'em down and mail 'em in! Other books are lucky—they only change their letterco titles once every long long while. But not us. No. We gotta be cute. And we need your help to continue doing so, capish?

And now . . . the letters!

Dear **Mr. Saltcrup**,

I would like to give you credit for the MARVEL AGE Calendars on the back of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, and for your newest feature, The Mutant Report. I would also like to give **Mr. Dave Cockrum** a big hand for his work on the NIGHTCRAWLER Limited Series, but I was hoping for his origin (**Nightcrawler's**, not Mr. Cockrum's). Maybe sometime you could have a comic or Limited Series telling about the origins of all the X-Men. I would also like to see the **Jim Shooter Al Milgrom** (yeah!!!), **Steve Leialoha** (yeah!!!) team some more, since SECRET WARS II has almost passed us. And I love your new series, MARVEL SAGA. How about a ROGUE AND MAGNETO Limited Series?

Matthew Woody
2405 N 100th St
Omaha, Neb 68134

You want to see more of the Shooter/Milgrom/Leialoha team? Then you'll want to subscribe to THE CREATIVE TEAM, the new adventure series starring Jim, Al and Steve as a trio of adventurers roaming the country and fighting evil in their quest to find other creators like themselves and help them to deal with their abilities. It'll be by *Peter Gillis*, *Art Adams* and *Joe Sinnott*.

But seriously ... everyone involved thanks you for your kind words, and your suggestions about *X-Men* origins and Limited Series have been passed on to *Ann* and *Chris*.

Dear Marvel,

I would just like to let you know a few things and ask a couple of questions. First off, I would like to say that I used to follow a few of your comics back in the early 70's as a little kid. Well, as I got older I quit buying comics, though I did have a fairly good collection I hoped to keep for a very long period of time, to maybe have a nest egg stored up for later in life.

Well, about two years ago while I was going to college, I met a guy who had been collecting Marvel comics for quite some time. We began talking about the characters I had been so familiar with (**The Hulk, Spider-Man, the FF, Iron Man**) and I discovered how their lives had progressed. I got so interested in Marvel characters again that I started collecting again! I am currently collecting, and have the entire catalogues of, ALPHA FLIGHT, THE NEW MUTANTS, THE THING, ELFQUEST, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, and both installments of SECRET WARS.

especially like THE NEW MUTANTS and I must give the creative team for **the Mutants** utmost praise for the work they did on THE NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1. Bravissimo! I read it at least five times. The story was fantastic, and I must say that Arthur Adams is, in my opinion, one of the greatest comics artists to ever come along. I think his layouts are breathtaking. I do have one criticism of his work on that issue: I didn't like the way he adorned the mutant ladies. They looked like sleaze-bags. Still, his work is fantastic.

And while we're on the subject of Arthur Adams, is he from the Portland, Oregon area? I'm from that area myself, and there is a comics direct sales store there called FUTURE DREAMS. I have noticed some original art on the walls there that greatly resembles his. Are they his work?

And for something totally unrelated: Something that has been vague to me is who the strongest Marvel characters are. So, this question: Who are the top ten strongest Marvel characters, and what is their strength equal to as far as how many times stronger than a normal man they are?

One final thought, I think it is fantastic how comics have come along from the 70's. Back then, comics were what people would expect them to be. But today those same people would be surprised to find out how good reading Marvel comics really is. So, Marvel, face the crowd, take a bow, and keep up the great work!

Tad Gaulke
Tacoma, WA

Welcome back, *Tad*—we hope you're back for good this time!

And, to answer your questions:

Art Adams actually comes from Vacaville, California, and he says that there's every possibility that the art you saw in FUTURE DREAMS could be his. Then again, maybe not. The best way to find out for sure is to ask somebody who works in the store about it.

As for the strength question, we refer you to THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION, which lists the strength levels of all the important Marvel characters. Our bets for the single strongest are on Eternity. After all, he lifts the entire universe every time he goes for a walk!

Dear MARVEL AGEnts,

There is no way you can explain the way I feel in one word. I am shocked, I am angry and I am disappointed. You forgot the most popular "person" in existence in the Marvel Universe! In issue #2 of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION, you skipped over the Beyonder (the entries go from **Beta Ray Bill** to **Binary**). I hope you list his entry under **One From Beyond** instead.

John Mulero
7827 Hampson St. #D
New Orleans, LA 70118

We checked with MARVEL UNIVERSE scribe *Peter Sanderson*, and he assures us that the Beyonder's non-appearance in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #2 (as well as the non-appearance of *Bullseye*) is no mistake, oversight, cheat, hoax, dream, or imaginary story. It was done for a reason, and that reason will eventually be revealed.

We've gotten a lot of letters on this, so we felt we had to straighten it out somehow. Hope this helps.

Dear Marvel,

I've noticed a disturbing trend in the past couple of years—the increasing tendency to use recognizable brand-name products in many of your stories. If this is done solely in the interest of verisimilitude or to provide familiar reference points for your readers, or an occasional humorous touch, I can see some justification for a rare use of this as a storytelling technique. However, and especially in the light of the comics industry's insistence on acknowledgement of its own registered, trademarked, licensed "products" (also known as characters), should you not make the same acknowledgements which you so rigorously demand?

My true fear is that Marvel or its highly respected creative talents are being *paid* to include these products in their stories as a form of semi-subliminal advertising. The fact that this is a common practice in television and movies, the fact that so much entertainment for children consists of thinly veiled ads for products, the fact that the major comics companies are now subsidiaries of much larger corporate entities, the fact that these product references began around the time that there were dramatic increases in the salaries of your creative people (they certainly deserve this), all increase my suspicion that you are in fact advertising these products. If you are not getting paid you are naive; if you are, please admit it. I believe it is among your considerable responsibilities to the young people of this nation to be straightforward about such things. I have never been under the illusion that Marvel is anything but a business—the wonderful creativity that you bring to us is a gift which comes on the shoulders of a commercial enterprise. You do have a profound influence on the formation of our youth's attitudes and ideals, and it would be a great disappointment to find that you are betraying them by deviously using your noble characters to purvey merchandise. Please set the record straight, okay?

Hal Hughes
San Francisco, CA

Call us naive if you will, *Hal*, but Marvel Comics does not get, and has never been, paid for including brand-name products in our stories. Your early assumption that when we do include such references, it is for the sake of verisimilitude, is absolutely correct.

We think you may be confusing copyright and trademark infringement with legitimate mention of trademarked properties. We don't object when Marvel Comics pop up in the writings of authors like *Stephen King* and *Donald E. Westlake* or when they appear on TV (as in an episode of M*A*S*H) —and Brooks Brothers doesn't object if *Tony Stark* wears one of their suits.

We certainly aren't intending to sway any readers' commercial choices. But we do want to set our stories convincingly in the real world, so just as we try to draw any military characters in the correct uniforms, we try to show accurate depictions of cars and clothes and televisions and buildings and so forth. Some people like this (and write in whenever we make a mistake), and some people don't. We don't have a set policy on the subject—it's up to the individual artist. So we'll stick to our occasional references to real things, just as we refer to real people, places and events. Okay?

Leibe MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE!

Ich merkte einen Buchstaben Fehler in ihre begrenzte-Serie NIGHT CRAWLER. Immer weider. Sie buchstaberten das Wort "was." bedeutet 'what," wie "vas." Dieses ist falsch! Die richtige Rechtschreibung is. was." Nightcrawler, ein Deutschsprecher, buchstabiertet es richtig so Sie ist falsch. "Vas" ist Holländisch und Nightcrawler ist Deutsch. Sie gib acht nächst Erengnis, bitte.

Lori Selke
Address Withheld

We're aware that "was" is the correct spelling, *Lori*—but "vas" is meant to indicate what it *sounds* like, not simply the word *Night crawler* is using. Sorry, no no-prize —but better luck next time!

Dear Marvel Non-Agers,

About **the Thing** joining **the West Coast Avengers**—I don't think so. Well, maybe for a couple of issues but that's all. I think this because THE FANTASTIC FOUR's 25th anniversary is coming up, and it won't be the same without ol' blue eyes. If that happens I think **the She-Hulk** will go to the West Coast team. Check to see if I'm right in about ten months.

Kevin St. Jacque
Long Beach, CA 90810

Let's see if we got this straight. The Thing isn't going to join the West Coast Avengers, but the She-Hulk is—because *Frank Sinatra* will be joining the FF?!! If you're right, it'll be the biggest news since X-FACTOR's fifth member!

Gee, maybe he'll sing "The Coffee Song!"

Dear Marvel,

How about having **Wolverine** fight **Tiger Shark**? Can you imagine the sight of two of Marvel's most aggressive characters locked in combat? It would be a sight to behold! So how about putting such a battle in FANFARE, or maybe having a (gasp!) whole Graphic Novel about it? (Although I'd really like to see ol Tigey take on **the Avengers** again too!)

Other confrontations I'd like to see. The East Coast Avengers versus **Orka the Human Killer Whale** (yes please!), **Captain America** versus

Arcade or the Jester, the West Coast Avengers versus the Super Adaptoid, and last but not least, the Hulk versus the Controller (I don't know why you've never done this before).

So how about it, Marvel?

Andrew Kieswetter
Adelaide
South Australia

Well, Andrew, the Avengers *have* clashed with Orka (check out #149), although that doesn't mean they'll never do it again. Your other suggestions sound pretty good to us, too, particularly Wolverine vs. Tiger Shark and the Hulk vs. the Controller. You never know just who is going to pop up where in the Marvel Universe—so keep reading, and you may get your wish!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

In your lettercol in #34 there was a letter from someone who wanted to know if a certain letter in FF #64 was written by **Mark Evanier**. You told him yes and then mentioned several other pros who were once letter-writers. Well, I have always read letter-columns and I enjoy looking for just those types of things. Two notable letter-writers that you didn't mention that I have found are **Barry Smith** (in X-MEN #9) who later did his first comic book work in X-MEN #53 and gained fame doing CONAN; also **Bill Mantlo** (in TALES TO ASTONISH #90), who went on to write THE INCREDIBLE HULK.

I don't suppose you could print *this* letter? Who knows, maybe I'll go on to work for Marvel!!!

Andrew Reynolds
265 Washington Ave. #19
West Haven, CT 06516

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I would like to tell you guys that you have just ruined my life and my friends' lives, and probably the same for a lot of other POWER MAN AND IRON FIST lovers. You made me feel bad then, but when I was told by my friend that not only was POWER MAN AND IRON FIST going to be canceled but also DAZZLER and THE THING I couldn't believe it. I guess pretty soon you'll be taking out SPIDER-MAN and CAPTAIN AMERICA (which I'm sure you won't do). Well, anyway, getting back to my point, I just hope that you will think again and not cancel those three titles, because getting rid of them is like getting rid of the Statue of Liberty. And by the way, if there should be a title canceled I think it should be INDIANA JONES or something like that.

Ninja 2
607 S. Fifth St.
Columbus, OH 43206

Okay. We'll cancel INDIANA JONES too.

Seriously, *Ninja*, if your life (and that of your friends) can be *ruined* by the cancellation of a comic book, then you need to develop some broader interests. These things happen. After all, even THE X-MEN was canceled for a while in the seventies, and CAPTAIN AMERICA (which you say we'd never cancel) was canceled between January 1950 and May 1954, and again between September '55 and October 1964.

Dear Editors,

I sent a letter to you recently and did not put my address on it. I have a good question (at least, I think so). What happened to **Captain Marvel's** nega-bands? I don't know and am curious. Please let me know your answer.

Jeff Harrod
1156 Piermont
So. Euclid, OH 44121

They were interred along with Mar-Vell's remains, *Jeff*.

Dear Marvelites,

I've been reading the recent issues of PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and I think you should have a Limited Series with Spider-Man and **Daredevil** to end **the Kingpin**.

One reason I think you should is that the two were made to work together. Plus they can get things done. This is proven in all of the Spider-Man magazines and Daredevil's own magazine.

Another reason is that the Kingpin has been an enemy to Spider-Man and Daredevil for years. He was one of and is one of his original and oldest enemies. Daredevil has a million reasons just as Spider-Man, plus the Kingpin ordered **Elektra's** death after she failed to kill **Foggy Nelson**.

My last reason is that maybe if Spider-Man worked with Daredevil to destroy the Kingpin it would help his reputation. Daredevil has a good reputation so it might help. Plus if the public knew Spider-Man helped ruin the Kingpin they would appreciate their "friendly neighborhood Spider-Man."

There are many other reasons I could state but I think I have made my point as to why you should have a SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL Limited Series to end the Kingpin. Now all you have to do is get **Frank Miller** to do it.

Ramsey Ramerman
1426 E. Roy
Seattle, WA 98112

Well, *Ramsey*, no plans for a Spider/Daredevil team-up Limited Series yet, but if it's Frank Miller you want, we hope you've been catching the shocking developments in DAREDEVIL since he returned as writer. And Spidey isn't being left out of it! He found out about the Kingpin's attack on Matt Murdock in an issue of PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and is getting his own licks in.

And that brings another letters page to a close, fellas 'n' gals. We'll continue this dynamic dialogue in just a few short weeks, provided the mailman keeps dragging the mountains of mail in. In the meantime, enjoy the winter weather, and don't slip on the ice. You know how we hate it when our readers are in anything less than mint condition!

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: MARVEL AGE
2. Date of Filing: October 1, 1985
3. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
3A. No. of issues published annually: 12
3B. Annual subscription price: $4.00
4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
5. Complete address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
6. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
7. Owner (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.): Sheldon Feinberg, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Joseph Walsh, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Joseph Calamari, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Cadence Industries Corporation, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Paul Hirdin, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. James E. Galton, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Jim Foy, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006.
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 411.3, DMM only). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: (Check one.) Have not changed during preceding 12 months. Have changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation with this statement.)
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION
A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 88,681. Single issue nearest to filing date: 101,526.
B. Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 85,291. Single issue nearest to filing date: 96,654. 2) Mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,670. Single issue nearest to filing date: 2,300.
C. Total Paid Circulation: (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 86,961. Single issue nearest to filing date: 98,954.
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 100. Single issue nearest to filing date: 1,050.
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 87,061. Single issue nearest to filing date: 100,004.
F. Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,620. Single issue nearest to filing date: 1,522. 2) Returns from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: None. Single issue nearest to filing date: None.
G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2 should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 88,681. Single issue nearest to filing date: 101,526.
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Thomas Costello — Business Manager

David as a bearded **Groo the Wanderer**! And sneak a peek at puritanical **Ralph Macchio** dressed as **Solomon Kane** and pleading with our petrified photographer to make his day. There was a lot of other crazy things going on, but my life has been threatened if I reveal any more about the office party.

I am permitted, however, to reveal a bit about the party at New York City's famous Cat Club for **the Vision** and **the Scarlet Witch**. You see, I got to host the darn thing! It was fantasy come true—to throw a party and not have to clean up afterwards!

Here's how it all came about. **Dave Bosch** of **the Jello Boys** was co-producing the Cat Club's Halloween party and was looking for a way to make the party extra-special and different from all the other Halloween parties being held in clubs all over New York City, particularly in Downtown Manhattan. So he called yours truly. As editor of THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH Limited Series, I suggested that the party could tie into the Halloween issue. Dave loved the idea. After **Jim Shooter** okayed the whole thing invites were sent to comics pros and fans everywhere.

Well, just about everybody from **the She-Hulk** and **Jack Of Hearts** to **Chris Claremont** were there! For days people kept telling me what a blast they had, and there's already talk of making it an annual tradition! Two sad notes, though. Dedicated Jim Shooter had to miss the party to finish scripting SECRET WARS II and **Stan the Man** missed out on all the fun too. I hope Mr. Lee doesn't mind if I share this letter with you:

Dear Jim,

Thanks very much for sending me that invitation to your All Hallow's Eve Halloween party.

I'm afraid I received it one day and three thousand miles too late.

I'm not quite sure I understand what it's all about but it's a great looking invitation, and the idea of you being a "presenter" is very impressive (of course, I would notice that!).

I hope the evening was great, although it couldn't have been easy to score a monumental success without me.

Next time you have an evening like that, for cryin' out loud, do it in LA!

Excelsior,
Stan Lee

Be here next issue for info on the Marvel X-Mas party!

The Production Department's dazzling **Dawn Geiger** and her hubby, SECTAURS penciler **Steve Geiger**.

Organizer of more Marvel parties than anyone else on Earth . . . lovely **Lynn Cohen**!

Editor **Sallcrup** unmasks Spidey and discovers—**Ken Lopez**?! Remember, Kenny, with great power comes great responsibility.

When Groo roamed the land, a warrior lived by his swords and his courage.

Brains were an optional extra.

SERGIO ARAGONÉS™
GROO
THE WANDERER

At newsstands everywhere. Monthly. From Marvel® Comics' Epic® Line.

GROO THE WANDERER: TM & © 1986 Sergio Aragonés
EPIC COMICS is a registered trademark of the Marvel Comics Group.
Copyright © 1986 Marvel Comics Group. All Rights reserved.